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The Truth Speaks

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Tackling Mideast crisis with full strength: PM

'Though global tensions disrupt essential supplies, India is working to manage fuel-fertiliser risks while protecting households & farmers from rising costs'

JEWAR (UP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India is confronting the challenges arising from the ongoing conflict in West Asia with full strength.

Addressing a gathering at the inauguration of the Noida International Airport in Jewar, the PM asserted that the country is taking all necessary steps to safeguard its citizens.

"Conflict has been ongoing in West Asia for over a month. Due to the war, food, petrol, diesel, gas, coal, and other essential goods have been affected. There is a crisis all around, and every country is trying to face it. Our India is also fighting this crisis with all its might, relying on the strength of its citizens," Modi said.

Highlighting that India depends on crude oil and gas from conflict-affected regions, Modi said: "The government is taking necessary steps to ensure the burden does not fall on families and farmers."

'Ethanol blending easing oil imports'

Emphasising the impact of ethanol blending on cutting oil dependence, Modi said, "If ethanol production and its blending in petrol had not increased, the country would have had to import 4.5 crore barrels of crude oil from abroad every year."

"The hard work of our farmers has given the country significant relief during this crisis. The nation has benefited from ethanol, and the farmers have also benefited greatly. About Rs 1.5 lakh crore in foreign currency has been saved... without ethanol, this money would have gone abroad," he added.

Tackling, but how?

- **Formation of empowered groups**
The Center has set up 7 high-level empowered groups to assess the impact of the war on energy supplies, essential commodities, and trade routes, and to devise strategies to protect the Indian economy.
- **Actionable strategy & 'Team India'**
The PM urged all state governments to work in unison as "Team India" to navigate the crisis, recalling the collective approach used during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Energy security and supply focus**
The government is ensuring a smooth supply of essential goods, particularly petroleum products and LPG. Monitoring mechanisms are in place, and strict measures are being discussed to prevent hoarding and profiteering.
- **Diplomatic efforts**
India is actively engaging in diplomacy for de-escalation, specifically aiming to ensure the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial shipping route.
- **Long-term preparedness**
The PM called for accelerating the use of alternative energy sources, including solar energy, biofuels, and increased piped natural gas connections to reduce dependency.

New front opens as Yemen's Houthis hit war field

TEHRAN

Houthis, the Iran-backed rebel group based in Yemen, on Saturday launched a missile strike on Israel a day after it warned of intervention if attacks on Iran continued. Israel said it intercepted the missile. The Iranian-backed group confirmed to have attacked Israel for the first time since the start of the US-Israeli war with Iran, saying it fired a barrage of ballistic missiles "targeting sensitive Israeli military sites" in response to the targeting of Iran, Lebanon, Iraq, and Palestinian territories. It added that its operations will continue until the "aggression" on all fronts ends. The Houthis' confirmation came after the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said it intercepted a missile from Yemen. The attack marks the entry of Houthis into the conflict just hours after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the United States expects to conclude military operations within "weeks, not months".

'Saudi pipeline pumping 7 million bpd of oil, bypassing Hormuz'

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline, which circumvents the Strait of Hormuz, is pumping oil at its full capacity of 7 million barrels a day, as per reports. Crude oil exports from Saudi Arabia's Yanbu port on the Red Sea have now reached 5 million barrels a day, and the country is also exporting about 700,000 to 900,000 barrels a day of oil products, say reports.

After Hormuz, Red Sea the next target?

The widening West Asia conflict is now threatening to choke two of the world's most crucial oil transit routes, raising fears of prolonged disruption to global energy supplies.

After a wave of attacks on commercial shipping amid US-Israel-Iran hostilities curtailed vessel movement through the strategic chokepoint Strait of Hormuz, oil producers have been scrambling to find alternative routes to move crude to international markets.

The Hormuz, a vital artery for global oil flows, has seen traffic plummet amid escalating conflicts, sending shockwaves through global energy markets. In this context, one of the few viable alternatives has been the Red Sea.

Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil producer, announced plans to reroute millions of barrels of crude via a pipeline to its western port of Yanbu. The shift has already led to a sharp rise in activity, with daily oil loadings at the port more than

doubling compared to last year's average, according to analytics firm, Kpler. However, this alternative corridor is now seems to be under the threat of attack.

The Red Sea has been a flashpoint since late 2023 when Iran-backed Houthi militants began targeting commercial vessels in what they termed as retaliation for Israel's war against Hamas. Those attacks forced major shipping companies to avoid this route by diverting vessels around the southern tip of Africa, a detour that adds weeks to transit times and significantly raises fuel, insurance and labour costs.

Now, with the Houthis formally entering the Iran war, concerns are mounting that the Red Sea could face a renewed wave of attacks. Maritime security risks in the region were already on a high before the latest escalation.

Earlier this month, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations warned that the threat level in the Red Sea remained "substantial," citing the "continued hostile posture" of Houthi forces toward commercial shipping.

The convergence of risks in both the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea, two critical chokepoints for global fuel trade, underscores how the expanding conflict is amplifying economic fallout far beyond the immediate region.

Centre pushes for rapid expansion of PNG networks amid LPG 'crunch'

NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday pushed for rapid expansion of PNG networks across urban areas in the country amid LPG supply concerns arising out of the West Asia conflict.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar outlined key priorities, including a single-window clearance system, integration of gas pipelines into urban planning, and improved last-mile connectivity.

An ambitious target of providing 50 lakh new piped natural gas (PNG) connections was also highlighted during a roundtable attended by Khattar, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, state representatives and industry stakeholders.

According to a statement issued by the housing and urban affairs ministry, officials highlighted the key bottlenecks slowing PNG expansion in the country, including delays in municipal permissions, right of way (RoW) approvals, and high restoration charges.

States flagged the need for rationalising or waiving such charges and adopting time-bound clearance systems.

Khattar called for a mission-mode approach to expand the PNG coverage, stressing the role of cities as economic growth engines.

2 more Indian-flagged LPG vessels reach Gujarat port via Strait of Hormuz

Ahmedabad: Two vessels carrying 47,000 MT of LPG reached Gujarat's Vadinar terminal, with the 'MT Jag Vasant' set to transfer its cargo through a ship-to-ship operation. The 'Jag Vasant' docked at Vadinar port late on Thursday night, nearly three weeks after being held up in the Hormuz amid West Asia war. Indian Navy warships were on standby to provide support to the vessels. Another tanker 'Pine Gas' with 45,000 MT of LPG i s expected to reach New Mangalore Port soon.

5 Indians hurt in UAE by missile debris after interception

Dubai: Five Indians were injured near Khalifa Economic Zones Abu Dhabi (KEZAD) in the UAE by the fall of debris following interception of a ballistic missile by the country's air defence system. The Abu Dhabi media pffice in a social media post confirmed that the incident resulted in injuries to five individuals of Indian nationality, ranging from moderate to minor. "The competent authorities urge the public to obtain information from official sources only, and to avoid circulating rumours or unverified information," it added.

Israel kills Hezbollah-affiliated reporter, 2 other journalists

LEBANON

A Lebanese reporter working for a Hezbollah-owned network was among three journalists killed in an Israeli strike in Lebanon. Hezbollah-owned Al Manar television said its journalist Ali Shuaib was killed in an Israeli strike targeting the vehicle he was in. The Israeli military accused Shuaib of being "a terrorist" operating under the "guise of a journalist" who was "exposing" locations of Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon.

DEATH TOLL SO FAR

Iran:	1,900+
Lebanon:	1,142+
Iraq:	96+
Israel:	19+
USA:	13+

'Don't let our enemies...': Iran warns Gulf nations

Tehran: Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian urged neighbouring nations not to let the US and Israel control the conflict if they seek peace and progress. Iran's message comes a time when several countries of the region, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, and more, have been caught up in the war.

GEN Z UPRISING

Nepal ex-PM Oli arrested hours after new govt takes over

KATHMANDU

Nepal's former prime minister KP Sharma Oli was arrested on Saturday as police investigate whether he was negligent in failing to prevent dozens of deaths during Gen Z anti-corruption protests last September, officials said.

Officials said police are investigating whether he was negligent in failing to prevent dozens of deaths during Gen Z anti-corruption protests last September.

Ramesh Lekhak, his home minister was also arrested.

Their arrests come after rapper-turned-politician Balendra Shah was sworn in as prime minister and after a recommendation last week by a Nepali panel investigating violence during the protests that they should be prosecuted for negligence.

Police spokesman Om Adhikari said both Oli and Lekhak were being detained at the Kathmandu Police Office and would be produced before the court on Sunday, a working day in Nepal.

76 people were killed in two days of unrest, following which Oli resigned.

He said they were arrested as per recommendations made by the investigation commission.

Oli, 74 and who has had two kidney transplants in the past, was subsequently transferred to a hospital from the police office, witnesses said.

His lawyer Tikaram Bhattarai told Reuters that the arrest was unwarranted. "They have said it (the arrest) is for investigation. It is illegal and improper because there is no risk of him fleeing or avoiding questioning," he said.

Lekhak and his lawyer could not be immediately reached for comment. The panel held Oli responsible for not taking any action to stop hours of firing that killed at least 19 Gen Z protesters on the first day of the demonstrations.

Anger over the deaths helped sweep Shah's Rastriya Swatantra Party to a landslide election this month.

QUICK READ

Fire breaks out at 'Mahayajna' in Ayodhya

LUCKNOW: A major fire broke out at a Laxmi Narayan 'Mahayajna' (a ritual by fire), organised by Uttar Pradesh minister Daya Shankar Singh, on the bank of the Saryu river in Ayodhya on Saturday. As per reports, the fire—which burned for several hours—completely gutted the 'yajna' pandal. Six fire tenders had a tough time dousing the flames. Hundreds of devotees were present when the fire broke out.

'Made to feel persona non grata within Cong'

GUWAHATI: Pradyut Bordoloi, a two-term MP from Assam who recently swiched over to the BJP, has claimed that he felt neglected, isolated and a "persona non grata" in the Congress. Bordoloi, a Congress member for more than five decades and the chairman of the manifesto panel for the Assam polls, is now contesting the election from Dispur on a BJP ticket.

'Iran war could drag on': RSS chief Bhagwat visits Chikkodi mutt

CHIKKODI

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat visited the Shri Kadasiddheshwar Math in Yadur village of Chikkodi taluk on Saturday.

He was received by Shri Shail Jagadguru Channaramasiddha Shri, who performed a gau tulabhara ceremony, where Bhagwat was weighed against gau (cow) feed.

Later, Bhagwat addressed a youth gathering, where he spoke about the Iran-Israel conflict. He said that the conflict is not as old as the Ukraine-Russia war, but it's worrying that it might drag on for a long time. He attributed the conflict to selfishness and a sense of "I" and "mine".

Bhagwat emphasized the importance of Hindu dharma and human values in solving global problems. He said that all nations, including India, should maintain friendly relations and resolve conflicts peacefully. He also spoke about the nature of Hindu society, saying that it's inclusive and doesn't seek to convert others. "Hindu" is not just a religion, but a way of life, he said. He added that Hindu society has always been united despite differences in worship and customs.

₹1K fine if pet found without leash on street

NEW DELHI

The fine for letting a dog roam in a public street without a leash, which currently is Rs 50 under the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, will increase to Rs 1,000 if the Parliament passes the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025.

This change is part of the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, which was introduced by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada in the Lok Sabha on Friday. The bill proposes several amendments to the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act of 1957.

Under the proposed amendments, the fine for tethering cattle on a public road will also rise from Rs 100 to Rs 1,000. Additionally, defacing or destroying a house number, which currently incurs a Rs 50 fine, will be increased to Rs 1,000.

Other fines are set to increase as well.

QUICK READ

RCB pays tribute to deceased fans ahead of IPL 2026 opener

Bengaluru

The RCB paid a heartfelt tribute to fans who lost their lives in a tragic incident last year, ahead of their opening match against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL 2026 in Bengaluru. The tribute comes in remembrance of a tragic stampede that occurred on June 4, 2025, during RCB's victory celebrations, which claimed the lives of 11 fans. Marking the solemn occasion, the team management organised a series of emotional gestures to honour the departed supporters and acknowledge their enduring connection with the franchise. At Chinnaswamy, where the opening match is being held, 11 seats were left vacant as a symbolic gesture.

Fatal road accident near Bengaluru claims lives of 2 students

Bengaluru

According to reports, the accident took place when a bike carrying three students collided with a lorry. The impact was severe, resulting in the death of two students on the spot. The deceased have been identified as Abhishek (21) and Manoj (21), both of whom were pursuing their studies while staying in a PG in Bengaluru. The three students had set out on a night ride from Bengaluru towards Kunigal on Saturday when the unfortunate incident occurred. Riding triple on a single bike is considered highly risky, and this factor may have contributed to the severity of the accident. The third student, Naveen, sustained serious injuries in the crash.

HC quashes land grabbing case against Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

Bengaluru

The bench led by Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order after carefully examining the case details. The court observed that there were no specific or direct allegations against Ravi Shankar in the plaint, making it unjustifiable to proceed with the case. The Bengaluru Metropolitan Task Force had filed a suo motu complaint on September 19, 2025, under the provisions of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act 1964. The complaint alleged illegal encroachment of government land, including lake areas and stormwater drains (rajakaluves), in survey numbers located in Kaggalipura village. The case was reportedly based on a PIL, proceedings in a Special Land Grabbing Court, and a report submitted by the Tahsildar.

HC stays probe against school staff over punishment allegations

The Court has granted an interim stay on criminal proceedings against principal and teachers, who were accused of punishing students for non-payment of fees

BENGALURU

The case stems from allegations made by parents of students enrolled in a reputed private school in Bengaluru. According to the complaint, several students who had not paid their school fees were allegedly made to stand outside in the harsh afternoon sun as a form of punishment. The incident sparked outrage among parents, who claimed that such treatment amounted to physical and mental harassment of children.

Based on the complaint, the police registered a First Information Report against the school's principal and certain teachers under provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, which deals with the protection and welfare of children. The filing of the case raised serious concerns about disciplinary practices in educational institutions and the boundaries of acceptable conduct by school authorities.

Challenging the criminal proceedings, the school management and the accused staff approached the Karnataka High Court, seeking quashing of the FIR. During the hearing, the petitioners' counsel argued that the incident, if at all it occurred, was part of maintaining school discipline and was not intended to harm or abuse the students. They contended that the allegations had been exaggerated and did not warrant criminal prosecution.

After hearing both sides, the High Court observed that the matter required a detailed examination of facts and legal provisions before any further action could be justified. Consequently, the court issued an interim order staying the investigation and all subsequent proceedings related to the FIR.

The stay has provided temporary relief to the accused school staff. The court is expected to take up the matter again in the coming hearings, where it will closely scrutinize the arguments presented by both the parents and the school authorities before delivering a final verdict.

Prof suspended over calling student 'terrorist'

A professor of PES University has been suspended after he allegedly referred to a student as a terrorist inside a classroom and police filed a case against him based on a viral video of the incident.

BENGALURU

The controversy erupted after a video surfaced online showing the professor, identified as Dr. Muralidhar Deshpande, allegedly verbally abusing a Muslim student during a class session.

The incident reportedly took place when the student, named Affan, sought permission to leave the classroom briefly.

As per the allegations, the professor reacted angrily to the request and began reprimanding the student in a harsh manner. During the exchange, the professor is accused of targeting the student's religious identity and calling him a terrorist. The video also purportedly captures the professor using abusive language, asking the student if he felt no shame, and even telling him to go to hell.

In addition, the professor allegedly made controversial remarks linking the student to global conflicts, suggesting that he was somehow responsible for events such as the Iran war. These remarks, captured on a mobile phone by another student present in the classroom, quickly spread across social media platforms, triggering widespread outrage.

Following the public backlash, the university administration acted promptly and suspended the professor pending further inquiry. Meanwhile, the Girinagar police registered a suo motu case based on the viral video. The case has been filed under Sections 299 and 352 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, citing allegations of hurting religious sentiments.

Police officials have initiated an investigation into the matter and are examining the authenticity of the video as well as statements from those involved. The incident has raised serious concerns about discrimination and appropriate conduct within educational institutions, with many calling for strict action to ensure accountability and safeguard student dignity.

Bilingual teaching in govt schools in state from 2026

BENGALURU

The initiative aims to enhance academic quality and better prepare students for global competition.

The Karnataka government has announced the introduction of bilingual teaching in selected government schools, including Karnataka Public Schools and PM SHRI Schools, starting from the 2026–27 academic year.

The initiative aims to enhance academic quality and better prepare students for global competition.

According to the Department of School Education and Literacy, the new policy will be implemented in a phased manner across the state. In the first phase, bilingual teaching will be introduced in all Karnataka Public Schools, all PM SHRI schools, and government primary schools in 15 selected districts. The move is seen as a significant step toward improving learning outcomes among students in government institutions.

Under the proposed system, students will be taught in both Kannada and English, ensuring better conceptual understanding while also strengthening their command over the English language. The initiative is designed to bridge the gap between regional language education and global communication needs, enabling students to compete effectively at higher levels of education and employment.

The program will follow a monograde bilingual model, where a single teacher will handle a class while delivering lessons in both languages. This approach aims to maintain continuity in teaching while ensuring that students receive consistent guidance in both Kannada and English mediums.

To support the rollout of this initiative, the government has planned special training programs for teachers. These training sessions are scheduled to be conducted during March and April, equipping educators with the necessary skills and methodologies required for bilingual instruction. Teachers will be trained to balance language use effectively and adopt innovative teaching techniques to enhance student engagement.

Education officials believe that this reform will not only improve academic performance but also boost students' confidence in using English alongside their mother tongue. The initiative reflects the state's broader vision of modernizing public education while preserving linguistic roots.

Development of North Karnataka a cause for concern

BENGALURU

The issue of balanced regional development in North Karnataka has once again come into focus. Concerns are being raised about the growth of industries, expansion of irrigation facilities, and the establishment of quality educational institutions.

Karnataka's Minister for Large and Medium Industries, MB Patil has expressed concerns that the central BJP government is not giving adequate attention to the development of North Karnataka. He specifically highlighted that proposals related to semiconductor projects are not being approved on a priority basis for the state, which could hinder industrial growth in the region.

Patil's remarks came in response to a social media post by opposition deputy leader Arvind Bellad, who emphasized the need to focus on North Karnataka's development. Bellad pointed out that while the previous BJP government had established the Kittur Karnataka Development Board, the current government must activate it and allocate sufficient funds.

In a letter addressed to Assembly Speaker UT Khader, Suresh Kumar requested that no IPL tickets or passes be issued in his name

BJP MLA says no to IPL tickets, blasts 'VIP culture' in governance

BENGALURU

The issue surfaced during a recent session of the state assembly, where several legislators, including Congress MLA Vijayanand Kashappanavar and members of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party, raised concerns about the limited number of IPL tickets being provided to them.

Lawmakers argued that receiving only one ticket made it difficult to accommodate family members, prompting demands for additional passes.

Following these requests, the Karnataka State Cricket Association reportedly considered increasing the allocation to two tickets per MLA, with media reports suggesting that the number could go up to five in the future. The matches are held at the iconic M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, a major venue for IPL games.

However, Suresh Kumar has taken a strong stand against the move. In a letter addressed to Assembly Speaker UT Khader, he requested that no IPL tickets or passes be issued in his name. He stated that accepting such privileges would go against his conscience and principles.

The MLA criticised the government for prioritising perks for elected representatives while failing to address pressing public issues. He pointed out that during discussions on serious challenges faced by citizens under the Greater Bengaluru Authority, the assembly abruptly shifted focus to IPL ticket distribution and privileges for legislators.

Highlighting the contrast, he remarked that while common people often wait years for solutions to their problems, the government responds within hours when it comes to facilities for MLAs. According to him, such actions risk eroding public trust and fostering resentment toward elected representatives.

Reiterating his position, Suresh Kumar described the encouragement of VIP culture as shocking, especially under a government that claims to follow socialist principles. He formally urged authorities not to allocate any IPL-related tickets or passes in his name for upcoming matches.

K'taka opens India's first govt-run 450-bed kids' hospital

BENGALURU

Karnataka continues to lead the nation in healthcare delivery. In a landmark achievement, the state's Congress government has constructed a massive, state-of-the-art 450-bed children's hospital at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, said Dr Sharanprakash R Patil, Minister for Medical Education, Skill Development, Livelihood, and In-charge Minister of Raichur district.

Speaking after inaugurating the new hospital, Dr. Patil stated that this hospital has been built to provide advanced care and treatment for children. He emphasized that a government-run super specialty hospital of this scale and capacity is a first-of-its-kind in the entire country.

Patients arriving from other states will receive the same quality of treatment here. The Minister urged the public to take full advantage of the facility, noting that 100% quality healthcare is available only in government hospitals. The institution currently operates 450 beds and annually treats approximately 1,78,000 outpatients and 21,000 inpatients, while performing around 5,000 surgeries.

The Siddaramaiah-led government is establishing medical colleges in all districts of the state. About 90% of this target has already been achieved, with only four or five districts remaining — all of which will be completed very soon, the Minister clarified.

Dr. Patil reaffirmed the government's commitment to providing quality healthcare to all citizens by setting up super specialty hospitals, cancer hospitals, and trauma care centers in every district. On the lines of the Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, NIMHANS-model institutes and Endocrinology Centers will be established in Mysuru and Kalaburagi. A dedicated children's hospital will also be built in Kalaburagi at a cost of ₹100 crore, modeled on the Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital, the Minister announced.

'Universal healthcare for all'

Patil stated that tertiary care treatment is available only in government hospitals and nowhere else, and that "Universal Health Care for All" is the guiding mission of the government.

The state has the largest number of medical seats and colleges, along with 800 nursing colleges, he added. Dr. Patil also felicitated Dr. K.S. Sanjay, Director of the Institute, on stage, as he retires at the end of this month after years of dedicated service.

The event was attended by legislators Uday Garudachar and T.A. Saravana, Additional Chief Secretary Mohammed Mohsin, Director Dr. B.L. Sujatha Rathod, Dr. K.S. Sanjay, and several other officials.

Man kidnapped over mistaken identity, later released

BENGALURU

A brazen kidnapping incident has shaken the city, with a gang abducting a man in broad daylight in a case of mistaken identity.

The incident occurred at Nagarahole Circle in Byadarahalli, where the gang beat up the victim and bundled him into an autorickshaw.

The kidnappers had apparently been tracking a person named Nata and mistook the victim, Sharat, for him.

They called Sharat's sister, abused her, and demanded to know her brother's whereabouts. However, after checking Sharat's phone, they realised their mistake and dropped him off midway.

The police have registered an FIR and are investigating the incident. The victim is shaken, and the police are on the lookout for the kidnappers.

A MOVE TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY

Fresh guidelines for govt docs working in pvt hospitals

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has introduced new guidelines concerning doctors and paramedical staff serving in government hospitals who are also engaged with private institutions.

Issued under Section 18 of the KPME (Karnataka Private Medical Establishments) Amendment Act, 2017, the order aims to bring greater transparency and accountability within the healthcare system.

As part of the new directive, all private medical institutions in the state are now required to submit detailed information regarding government doctors and paramedical staff working with them.

This information must be provided to the District KPME Registration Authority as well as the Commissioner of the Health Department. The move is intended to ensure that there is proper monitoring of dual practice in the medical field.

Additionally, private hospitals must ensure that the submitted details are published on the official website of the Health Department. This step is aimed at promoting transparency and allowing public access to relevant information about medical professionals serving in both government and private sectors.

A key highlight of the guidelines is the strict restriction placed on government doctors regarding inpatient care in private hospitals. The order clearly states that government doctors must not provide treatment to in-patients in private institutions. This rule has been enforced to prevent misuse of government positions and to ensure that public healthcare services are not compromised.

The government has also issued mandatory instructions for doctors and paramedical staff engaged in private practice. They are required to voluntarily inform the District Health Officer (DHO) and the Health Commissioner about their involvement in private work. This declaration is essential for maintaining transparency and ensuring compliance with regulations.

Furthermore, such professionals must provide written confirmation stating that they are treating only out-patients (OPD) in private hospitals.

QUICK READ

Sri Rama Navami celebrated with devotion

HANAGAl

Sri Rama Navami was celebrated with grandeur at the Ramdev Temple in Hanagal, where MLA Srinivasa Mane participated in the Tottilotsava. Special poojas, homa, and havans were performed from the morning, attracting a large number of devotees who offered prayers and took darshan. The idol of Lord Rama was beautifully decorated with flowers. MLA Mane highlighted Lord Rama as a symbol of truth and morality, urging today's youth to follow his ideals to foster peace, unity, and harmony in society. Prominent locals, including Ravi Deshpande, Ghanshyam Deshpande, Adarsh Shetty, and Vidyashankar Deshpada, were present at the celebration.

Man dies after falling on railway tracks

VIJAYANAGAR

A tragic accident occurred at Hospet railway station in Vijayanagar district when an unidentified man fell on the tracks and was run over by a passing train. He died instantly, and locals immediately informed the railway authorities. Hospet Railway Police visited the spot and carried out an inspection. The identity of the deceased is yet to be confirmed. A case has been registered, and an investigation is ongoing. Police have requested public assistance to help identify the man. Authorities urged caution near railway tracks and appealed to the public to report any information that may assist the investigation.

J. Tontadarya Mahotsava hosts free health camps

GADAG

As part of the J. Tontadarya Mahotsava, a blood donation and free health checkup camp will be held on Sunday, March 29, at 10:30 am at J. Tontadarya Kalyana Mandapam. The camp will feature specialists in general medicine, cardiology, surgery, urology, dermatology, obstetrics, pediatrics, dentistry, ophthalmology, and Ayurveda. Doctors from multiple hospitals and the National Integrated Medical Association (NIMA) will provide consultations and treatments for common ailments. Ayurvedic checkups and Panchakarma services will also be available. The Mahotsava committee, along with staff from DGM Ayurveda College and Research Center, Gadag, has invited all residents to participate and take advantage of these free medical services.

Political tensions escalate near BJP office premises

Protesters displayed slippers and brooms at Eshwar's convoy, while police and ASP Hegde ensured safe passage

DAVANAGERE

Chikkaballapur MLA Pradeep Eshwar arrived in Davangere on Saturday to accept the challenge issued by BJP leaders ahead of the upcoming by-election, triggering a tense confrontation with party workers. The incident occurred as Eshwar was traveling from PB Road toward Raya Math near the KB Barangay BJP office.As Eshwar's convoy approached the BJP office, protesters brandished slippers and brooms—a symbolic show of dissent in local political culture. BJP workers, carrying leader B.G. Ajay Kumar on their shoulders, raised slogans against Eshwar, while CRPF and local police personnel quickly intervened to prevent escalation. Assistant Superintendent of Police Parameshwara Hegde mediated and allowed Eshwar's convoy to move forward safely.Addressing the crowd from atop his vehicle, Eshwar emphasized that he had come specifically to confront the BJP's challenge. He accused BJP leaders of making derogatory remarks against minorities, criticizing their religion, and questioning their economic contributions. Eshwar stated that the BJP had labeled recent budget allocations for minority education as a "Muslim budget" and alleged attempts to discourage purchases from minority-owned shops.Eshwar also highlighted his support for Congress candidate Samarth Shamanur, describing him as the "new generation" of leadership following the death of veteran leader Shamanur Shivashankarappa. He called on voters to rally behind Samarth, asserting that Ahinda (a political coalition of minorities, backward classes, and Dalits) and OBC communities would show their strength in Davangere South.

"I came to the BJP office because they challenged me. They showed slippers and brooms, but this is their tradition. I am an OBC boy, yet they targeted Ahinda. We will demonstrate our strength through our candidate, Samarth," Eshwar said.The incident marks another flashpoint in the escalating Congress-BJP rivalry in the district, reflecting both parties' aggressive strategies ahead of the by-election. Political analysts suggest that such confrontations could influence voter sentiment, particularly in communities targeted by these campaigns.

Selfishness fuels conflicts, unity defines true religion: Bhagwat

CHIKKODI

Bhagwat said Hinduism is a complete way of life, emphasizing unity, respect for diversity, peaceful coexistence, and warning that selfish mindsets cause global conflicts and crises

Mohan Bhagwat, chief of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, said that selfishness is the main cause of conflicts across the world, while true religion means living together in harmony.

He spoke during his visit to Sukshetra Yadoor Veerabhadra Temple in Belagavi district, where he also visited Sri Kadasiddheshwara Mutt and interacted with students after a Tulabhara programme.

Bhagwat explained that Hinduism is not limited to worship, food habits, or rituals, but is a complete way of life. He said Indian culture has always supported unity despite differences in language, region, and beliefs. People not only accept diversity but also respect it, he added.

He told students to stay firm in their own faith while respecting others. "Your worship may guide your personal life, but living together peacefully is the true meaning of religion," he said.

Speaking about global tensions, Bhagwat referred to conflicts like the Russia-Ukraine War and disputes involving Israel, Iran, and the United States. He said the mindset of "me and mine" leads to division and crisis.

Sharing an example, he recalled a discussion with an American lawyer who always stressed protecting national interests in every agreement. Bhagwat said such thinking reflects selfishness and lack of a united vision.

He warned that many global issues, including wars and environmental problems, arise from ignoring human values and unity.

Several religious leaders, including Dr Channasiddharama Panditaradhya Shivacharya Mahaswamiji, attended the programme.

Health Inspector Siddappa explained tuberculosis is now curable, with awareness programs promoting timely treatment and encouraging early testing

Community joins hands to fight tuberculosis fear

GADAG

Community members and health officials came together to spread awareness about tuberculosis during a special program held at the Advisomapura Health and Wellness Centre on World Tuberculosis Day.

Health Inspector Siddappa N Lingadala said that tuberculosis was once feared by many people but now it can be cured with proper medicine and timely treatment. He explained that continuous awareness programs by the Health Department have helped reduce fear and encouraged people to seek early testing.

Tuberculosis is caused by bacteria and spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Common symptoms include cough lasting more than two weeks, fever in the evening, chest pain, weight loss and loss of appetite. Officials advised anyone with such signs to visit nearby health centers for free sputum tests and treatment. Treatment usually lasts six to nine months and must be completed without break.

The event was organized with support from district authorities and local health staff. Teacher SG Amminabai presided over the function while staff and community workers participated actively in spreading awareness among villagers. Speakers urged the public to work hand in hand with the government to make Karnataka tuberculosis free and ensure a healthier future for everyone in the region through care, support and awareness drives across all communities. They also thanked volunteers and workers for their efforts and dedication towards public health and safety.

Dr. Syed urges preservation of theatre arts

KOPPAL

Theater is a living art form that must be preserved and nurtured, said Dr. K.M. Syed, KPCC coordinator and president of the Syed Foundation. He spoke at the inauguration of the drama Dharmada Nudi Benki Kidi, staged as part of the Ram Navami festival in Shastri Nagar, Agalakera village, Koppal taluk.

Dr. Syed said theater, though traditionally male-dominated, conveys social messages and brings joy to communities. "In rural areas, extensive preparation goes into every performance. Today, it is important to preserve and develop this art form," he added.

Former Mandala Chief Hulugappa Gada lit the ceremonial lamp. The event was attended by village leaders including Eeshappa Hitnal, Basavaraj Bhajantri, and playwright Halaiah Hudejali, along with Gram Panchayat members, elders, youth, and villagers who joined to celebrate and support local theater.

Music icons honored at Gadag cultural event

GADAG

A grand cultural event celebrating music and devotion was held in Gadag during the Sri Guru Satchidananda Mutt Jatra Mahotsav. The program was organized by the Darideepa Mahila Multi-Purpose Organization under the leadership of its president, Shakuntala Mulagunda.

The event paid tribute to talented local artistes who have made notable contributions to the field of music. Renowned singers Raghavendra Missionnavar and Krishnapriya Badi were honored with shawls and mementos in recognition of their achievements and dedication. The ceremony attracted art lovers and members of the community, creating a vibrant and festive atmosphere.Speaking on the occasion, Shakuntala Mulagunda said that music is not just entertainment but a powerful force that touches the inner soul of people. She added that honoring such artistes is both a privilege and responsibility, as they preserve and promote the rich musical heritage of the region. She also expressed hope that their contribution would continue to inspire future generations.Several members of the organization, including Jyothidesai Gowder, Deepa Belavadi, Deepa Ugalata, Vijayalakshmi Asootie, Vijayalakshmi Bally, Basamma Harthi, Shobha Hiremath, Jayashree Katiger, and Saroja Kogile, were present at the event.The program successfully brought together devotion and art, leaving a lasting impression on the audience.

Addiction awareness walk held during J. Tontadarya Jatra

GADAG

As part of the annual J. Tontadarya Jatra Mahotsava, an awareness walk promoting an addiction-free society was organized in Okkalageri. The walk began at Rachoteswara Temple and passed through the main streets of the town.

During the march, participants, led by Pujyashri J.D. Siddarama Mahaswamy, collected liquor pouches, gutka packets, and tobacco products, pledging to remove such items from their community. Devotees also offered blessings and took oaths to lead a healthier, substance-free life.

The event was attended by religious leaders, including Pujyashri Basavamahanta Swami, Pujyashri Shantaliga, and elders such as Kotrappa Kamatara, M.A. Hiremath, among others. Women decorated streets with rangoli and distributed nutritious food to participants before the walk.

Organizers including Jatra Chairman Vinayak Manvi and Vice President Shivayya Nalvathvada ensured the program promoted health awareness and community participation throughout the festival.

Parashuram Kerehalli appointed as Davangere by-election in-charge

KOPPAL

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) has appointed Parashuram Kerehalli as the in-charge for the Davangere Assembly by-election campaign. The announcement was made by R Dharma Sen, State President of the KPCC Scheduled Castes Division, who instructed Kerehalli to lead efforts to ensure the victory of Congress candidate Samarth Mallikarjun Shamanur, grandson of Shamanur Shivshankarappa.

Parashuram Kerehalli, who is the District Vice President of Koppal District SC Unit and Congress District Media Spokesperson, has been tasked with managing election campaign strategies, coordinating with media, and communicating the party's message effectively to voters. He will work under the guidance of senior Congress leaders to strengthen party outreach during the by-election.

Kerehalli expressed his gratitude to senior leaders, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Koppal District In-charge Minister Shivraj S. Thangadagi, Chief Minister's Financial Adviser Basavaraj Rayareddy, Koppal MLA K. Raghavendra Hitnal, MP K. Rajasekhar Hitnal, and former MP Sanganna Kardi. He also thanked local leaders and workers for their support and cooperation.

DR PATIL TO RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS SANYAM AWARD

GADAG

D.R. Patil of the Karnataka State Liquor Control Board will be honored with the prestigious Sanyam Award for the year 2023. The award ceremony is scheduled for March 31.The award will be presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Shobha Karandlaje will also be present. MLA Rizwana Arsha will preside over the event.

Other notable attendees include Law and Tourism Minister H.K. Patil, Minister Sharanbasappa Gowda Darshanapura, Priyank Kharge, S.S. Bosaraju, and Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil. The Sanyam Awards for 2024 and 2025 will be given to B.R. Patil and Dr. Vudepi Krishna respectively, along with recognition for several other leaders.

Haveri sees spike in household power use amid gas shortageHaveriHouseholds in Haveri district are witnessing a sharp rise in electricity consumption due to an ongoing shortage of cooking gas cylinders. The disruption in supply is linked to the escalating conflict between Iran, Israel, and the United States, which has impacted global gas availability.Hescom Chairman Azzamfir Qadri stated that the shortage has forced residents to rely on electric stoves for daily cooking, significantly increasing domestic power usage. Speaking near Bankapur in Shiggaon taluk, he confirmed that electricity consumption in the seven districts under Hescom has jumped noticeably compared to last year.Data shows that in March last year, 182.03 million units of electricity were consumed, whereas in March this year, the figure rose to 188 million units. This represents an increase of nearly 5.97 million units in just one year, highlighting the impact of the gas shortage on household energy demands.

LEGACY OF SERVICE

Agnibanniraya Jayanti highlights unity and social welfare values

KARWAR

The birth anniversary of Sri Agnibanniraya was celebrated with devotion and respect at the Karnataka State Government Employees Bhawan, highlighting his contribution to society and human values.

Speaking at the event, Pramoda Nayka, Tehsildar of the Election Branch at the District Collector's office, said that Agnibanniraya was not just a leader of one community but worked for the welfare and prosperity of all sections of society. He added that his life and teachings continue to inspire people across communities.

The program was organized jointly by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, and the Department of Kannada and Culture. The ceremony began with floral tributes to the portrait of Agnibanniraya.

Retired Principal A.G. Keralekas delivered a special lecture, explaining that Agnibanniraya dedicated his life to the upliftment of people and stood as a symbol of humanity, compassion, and righteousness. He urged people to follow his ideals and apply them in their daily lives.

District President of Karnataka State Government Employees Association Sanjeev Kumar, along with Rajan M. and members of the Star Choice team, participated in the event.

Assistant Director of the Kannada and Culture Department Mangala Ven Nayaka welcomed the gathering, while L. Triveni compered the program and expressed gratitude at the end.

QUICK READ

SSLC student killed in road accident

HASSAN

A tragic accident claimed the life of a 16-year-old SSLC student, Chirant, near Kamasamudra on National Highway 373 in Holenarasipur taluk. The student had come to town by bus after his exams and was crossing the road when he was hit by a speeding car. Eyewitnesses said the driver's negligence and excessive speed caused the accident. The incident occurred under the jurisdiction of Holenarasipur Nagar Police Station. Authorities registered a case and are investigating the matter. Police have urged drivers to exercise caution on highways and appealed to the public for any information that could assist in the ongoing investigation.

Young tiger dies after getting snared

MYSURU

A three-year-old male tiger died after getting caught in a snare in the Metikuppe Wildlife Zone of Nagarahole National Park, H.D. Kote taluk. The death, reported by locals, occurred two days ago. Forest officials, including Tiger Project Director Seema and ACF Madhu, inspected the site, while Dr. Ramesh and Dr. Prasanna conducted a post-mortem and cremated the tiger. A complaint has been filed against local landowners Shankar and Girish. Forest Minister Ishwara Khandre expressed concern and ordered an investigation by the Chief Conservator of Forests to determine staff negligence and prevent future incidents by clearing illegal traps near forest fringes.

Candlelight protest seeks justice for Samiksha Reddy

SHIVAMOGGA

A candlelight protest was held in the city demanding justice for Samiksha Reddy, a veterinarian who died under suspicious circumstances while working at Tavarekoppa on the outskirts.

Members of the Karnataka Veterinary Association, veterinary college students, and officers of the Karnataka Milk Union took part in the protest. The march began at Ameer Ahmed Circle and ended at Gopi Circle, where participants lit candles and raised slogans seeking justice. Protesters expressed doubts over the nature of her death and demanded that the case be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation for a fair and transparent inquiry.

JDS leaders urged to prepare for elections

Parayanaik urged party members to unite, focus on strengthening local bodies, and set aside differences for election victory

SHIVAMOGGA

With local body elections approaching, Rural MLA and JDS Legislature Party Deputy Leader Sharada Parayanaik has called on party workers and leaders to gear up from now itself. She spoke after inaugurating a meeting of rural workers at the JDS office in Shivamogga.Parayanaik said that elections for Gram Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat, and Zilla Panchayat are expected after September. She urged party members not to worry about reservation issues but to focus on strengthening local bodies. "This is the time to forget differences and work together for the party," she said.She admitted that the party lost several seats in previous elections due to internal mistakes. Stressing the need for self-reflection, she said personal differences and ego should not affect election performance. "We must support whoever gets the party ticket and work unitedly for victory," she added.The MLA also spoke about her efforts in raising issues related to rural development in the Assembly and seeking grants. She expressed concern that the ruling government has not responded adequately, which could affect development works. Despite this, she assured that she has worked sincerely for the welfare of her constituency.Former MLA K.B. Prasannakumar, District President Ramakrishna, Women's Wing President Geeta Satish, and several party leaders and workers attended the meeting. The gathering highlighted the importance of unity, discipline, and early preparation for the upcoming elections.

Belagavi civic worker dies in lorry accident

BELAGAVI

After a municipal worker Avakka's fatal accident, police arrested the fleeing tipper driver, and authorities promised compensation, while leaders expressed sorrow over civic workers' risks

A 50-year-old woman civic worker, Avakka Kolkara, tragically died early Saturday morning after being hit by a speeding lorry while performing her cleaning duties on Khanapura Road. The incident shocked her colleagues and triggered protests from fellow municipal workers demanding justice.

According to municipal officials, the tipper driver fled the scene immediately after the accident. Police quickly pursued and arrested him under the jurisdiction of the South Traffic Police Station. Municipal Corporation Environmental Engineer Hanumant Kaladagi confirmed that Avakka was rushed to the hospital by colleagues and local residents, but she succumbed to her injuries before receiving treatment.

Avakka was a permanent city employee who had been diligently performing her duties for years. The municipal authorities assured that compensation would be provided to her family, including Rs. 7,000 for funeral expenses. Former Mayor Mangesh Pawar and former Deputy Mayor Vani Joshi visited the accident site and expressed deep sorrow over the loss, highlighting the risks faced by civic workers during their early morning duties.

The tragic incident has raised concerns about traffic safety and the protection of municipal staff. Colleagues and locals urged authorities to enforce stricter safety measures for road workers and to hold negligent drivers accountable.

The city administration has promised to take necessary action and inform the municipal commissioner for further follow-up.

Residents and fellow employees remembered Avakka as a dedicated worker whose untimely death underscores the vulnerability of frontline civic staff and the urgent need for road safety awareness.

Police raided a shed storing drug chemicals, arrested two suspects, while two others escaped, uncovering a disguised ginger business

Massive drug raw materials seized in Hunsur

HUNSUR

In a major crackdown, police seized drug raw materials worth nearly ₹12 crore from Dasanapura village under Hunsur Rural Police limits and arrested two persons, officials said on Saturday.

Superintendent of Police Mallikarjuna Baladandi said about 48 kg of materials used to make synthetic drugs were recovered from a shed built on land owned by Ibrahim Khan near Hospital Kavalu.

Police said the shed was set up by accused persons, including Mohammed Irfan, who were secretly storing chemicals used for drug production. Acting on a tip-off, a police team conducted a raid on Friday evening and seized the materials packed in 16 bundles.

Two accused, Mohammed Sharif and Ibrahim Khan, were caught at the spot and taken into custody. However, two other suspects managed to escape during the operation.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the group had brought the materials from outside and stored them in the shed for about six days. To avoid suspicion, the gang had rented another shed and pretended to run a ginger business.Police also found links to a larger network connected to Mumbai. Officials said the gang consists of six members, including two locals and four persons from Mumbai.

Three special police teams have been formed to trace the absconding accused and gather more details about the network.

Further investigation is underway, and police expect to uncover more information soon.

Agnibanniraya Jayanti celebrated with cultural pride

CHITRADURGA

Sri Agnibanniraya Jayanti was celebrated with devotion and cultural pride at the Collectorate office hall in Chitradurga on Saturday. The program was jointly organized by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Kannada and Culture Department, and Municipal Council.

Speaking at the event, Kannada Lecturer Dr. G. N. Yashodhara highlighted the unique contribution of the Tigla community in shaping the famous Lalbagh Park in Bengaluru and preserving the historic Karaga festival. He explained that the community's roots are linked to mythology, stating that Agnibanniraya was born from the third eye of Lord Shiva, as mentioned in the Agni Purana.

He also shared that the Tigla community played an important role as soldiers during the Chola period and later became known for their agricultural and horticultural skills. When Hyder Ali ruled the region, he brought members of the community to Mysore after recognizing their expertise. Their efforts led to the development of the 60-acre Lalbagh garden seen today.Dr. Yashodhara added that the Karaga festival, celebrated for over 500 years in Bengaluru, stands as a symbol of the community's cultural identity. He appreciated the government's steps in supporting the community through educational initiatives.

Sub-Divisional Officer Dr. K. J. Kantaraj and other officials paid floral tributes during the event. Cultural songs were presented by Shabinabanu and her team.

Sharnbasva University wins prestigious national IETE award

KALABURAGI

Sharnbasva University received a prestigious national level award from the Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering (IETE) at a grand function held on its main campus on Saturday.

The award, known as the Shri P Malhotra Memorial Award, is given every year to the best universities across the country. It was presented by IETE President Prof Sunil to Chancellor Matoshree Dr Dakshayini Avvaji during the inauguration of the IETE South Zone Seminar and ISF Congress.

Accepting the honor, Dr Avvaji said the award had earlier been formally given to Sangha Secretary Basavaraj Deshmukh at the IETE annual convention. She thanked the IETE team, especially Prof Sunil, for personally

presenting the award in Kalaburagi.

She dedicated the recognition to the founder chancellor, late Dr Sharanbaswappa Appaji, and described it as a result of his lifelong efforts in building strong educational institutions.

She added that the award reflects his vision and commitment to quality education.

Dr Avvaji said such recognition brings greater responsibility to improve standards and work towards making the university one of the top institutions globally. She also encouraged students to focus on research, innovation, and development for the benefit of society.During the event, several students and colleges were also honored for their achievements in research, presentations, and other academic activities. University officials and dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Elderly elephant Gajendra to be relocated to camp

CHAMARAJANAGAR

Forest, Biology, and Environment Minister Ishwar Khandre has ordered that Gajendra, a 75-year-old elephant who has been living alone for several years, be sent to a specialized elephant camp. Gajendra, once a gentle and famous participant in many Dasara festivals, has been vulnerable due to his age and the absence of his companion, Durgaparameshwari, who is now in another camp.

Currently housed at the BRT Tiger Reserve in Bhudipadag, Gajendra faces risks from wild elephants when allowed to graze freely. Minister Khandre directed that the elephant be relocated to a safer environment where he can be cared for properly and protected from potential dangers.

Gajendra was captured in 1987 from the Kattepura forest in Kodagu and later brought to the K. Gudi elephant camp.

Vijayapura hosts two-day mediation training program

VIJAYAPURA

A two-day rehabilitation and mediation training program was organized jointly by the Vijayapura and Bagalkote District Advocates' Associations under the guidance of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Vijayapura. The program focused on training arbitrators and legal professionals to handle family court cases, promote mediation, and encourage reconciliation between disputing parties.

The program was inaugurated by Honorable Shri Harish A., Principal District and Sessions Judge and President of DLSA Vijayapura. He highlighted the importance of mediation in resolving disputes and advised arbitrators to make extra efforts in persuading respondents and creating awareness about mediation, particularly in rural and taluk-level communities.

Chief guests and dignitaries included Honorable Mr. Arvind S. Hagargi, Senior Civil Judge and Member Secretary of DLSA Vijayapura; Mr. DG Biradara, President of District Judge Sangh Vijayapura; Mr. Sivananda Mallan Gowda Patil, Non-Official Member of Karnataka State Legal Services Authority Bangalore; along with resource persons Mr. Lakshmish Rao G, Senior Trainers from Karnataka Mediation, Bangalore; Smt. Anita R., and Mrs. Bivulasingh, arbitrators from Karnataka Arbitration Center Bangalore.

Participants included arbitrators from the Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSC) of Muddebihal, Basavan Bagewadi, Sindagi, and Indi under DLSA Vijayapura, as well as representatives from DLSA Bagalkot. The sessions emphasized rehabilitation techniques for alcoholics, mediation skills, and strategies to resolve conflicts efficiently in family court cases, aiming to improve access to justice and encourage amicable settlements across both districts.

The program concluded with renewed commitment from arbitrators and legal professionals to strengthen mediation practices and ensure greater awareness of legal dispute resolution at local levels.

HISTORIC TEMPLE CELEBRATION

Magadi Village celebrates Chandramauleshwara Swamy Rathotsava

MAGADI

The historic Chandramauleshwara Swamy Temple in Veeregowdanadoddy village of Magadi Taluk witnessed a grand Brahmarathotsava on Saturday, attracting thousands of devotees. The annual chariot festival, a centuries-old tradition, was marked by vibrant religious rituals and enthusiastic community participation.The day began with special ceremonies including Rudrabhishek, Rathanga Homa, and elaborate decorations for the deity. Devotees were served Dasohada, panak, buttermilk, and cauliflower, distributed by temple donors and sevakartas. Temple Governing Body member Shivakumar highlighted that the ancient temple, over 200 years old, is undergoing restoration, and urged devotees to contribute generously to the renovation efforts.

The chariot, the festival's centerpiece, paraded through the village streets amid devotional fervor. Devotees offered bananas and other offerings while chanting prayers, creating a lively and spiritual atmosphere. Some devotees even inscribed messages like "Long live the RCB team" as part of their prayers, adding a unique local flavor to the celebrations.The festival saw active participation from a large number of villagers and temple governing body members, including Anand, Satyappa, Siddalingaprasad, Parashivamurthy, Jayanna, and many others. The event successfully combined devotion, tradition, and community spirit, reinforcing the temple's cultural and spiritual significance in the region.The Rathotsava continues to be a major highlight for Veeregowdanadoddy village, showcasing its rich religious heritage and the collective enthusiasm of its residents in keeping ancient traditions alive.

QUICK READ

Police seize lorry carrying illegal ration rice

KOPPAL

Pro-Kannada organizations intercepted a lorry illegally transporting Annabhagya scheme ration rice near Vaddarahatti Camp in Gangavathi and handed it over to police. Acting on a tip, activists stopped the lorry traveling from Manvi to Kookanapalli and informed authorities. A joint inspection by the Food Department and police revealed about 35 tons of rice in 50 kg bags, suspected to be PDS stock. Khader Bhasha, District President of Dr. Rajkumar Fans' Union, alleged the rice was polished and sold illegally to other states. DYSP J.S. Namagowdar confirmed an investigation is underway.

Heavy rain and winds lash Mudigere, schools and crops damaged

MUDIGERE

Heavy rain accompanied by strong winds battered Mudigere city in Chikkamagaluru district, causing widespread damage. Roof tiles of a high school building near the city bus stand were blown away, and an 80-foot coconut tree fell on the main road. Several electric poles were also uprooted, leaving villages without power and creating traffic disruptions along Mudigere–Chikkamagaluru road. The Malnad region has experienced continuous hailstorms over the past three days, severely affecting farmers. Flower, coffee, and areca nut crops have been extensively damaged, adding to agricultural losses in the district.

MLA Iqbal Hussain unable to perform Bhumi Puja for bus shelter construction

CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMUTER SHELTER WAS DELAYED AS BUILDING OWNERS OPPOSED THE PLANNED SITE, DESPITE MLA HUSSAIN SUGGESTING ALTERNATIVES

RAMANAGARA

MLA H.A. Iqbal Hussain was unable to perform the Bhumi Puja for the construction of a new bus shelter near Aizuru Circle Petrol Station due to opposition from nearby building owners, delaying the project intended to benefit passengers traveling towards Mysuru.

Preparations had been made on Saturday to begin the construction under the Ramanagara Development Authority with a grant of ₹20 lakh. The proposed shelter aimed to provide convenience for commuters, including seating, toilets, and facilities for nearby traders. However, building owners Jayarame Gowda and Harish raised concerns that constructing the shelter at the planned location would interfere with their businesses.

MLA Iqbal Hussain attempted to persuade them by suggesting an alternative location 100 meters back, which would accommodate both public convenience and the building owners' concerns.

Despite his efforts, the Bhumi Puja could not be performed as the owners insisted on preserving their business

space according to the authority's blueprint.

The building owners, when speaking to reporters, clarified that they did not object to the construction of the bus shelter itself and expressed willingness to allow it if it did not disrupt their business operations. They also noted that a slightly shifted location would still serve passengers effectively.

MLA Iqbal Hussain emphasized that the authority's plan is meant to serve public welfare. "Our responsibility is to provide basic facilities to the passengers. We are working to ensure a well-equipped shelter. The building owners should consider public convenience as well. If they cooperate, we can proceed without affecting their businesses," he said.

Alternative plans are being considered to accommodate the concerns, including adjustments near Aizuru Circle Signal, Kanakapura Circle, and the Old Bus Stand Circle. The MLA assured that a revised blueprint would be prepared to move the project forward.

Several officials and leaders were present during the event, including Ramanagar Urban Development Authority Chairman A.B. Chethankumar, Guruprasad, Taluk JDS President Sabbakere Sivalingappa, leaders Gooli Kumar, Nagesh, Auditor Ravikumar, Narasimhaiah, Ravi, and Bhairegowda.

The incident highlights the challenges of balancing urban development projects with the interests of local businesses, as authorities seek solutions to serve both commuters and traders.

District takes strong steps against female foeticide

CHITRADURGA

The District Advisory Committee meeting on the PCPNDT Act focused on preventing female foeticide and improving the declining sex ratio in Chitradurga district. Officials emphasized strict enforcement of the law and active monitoring of all scanning centers.

Chairperson Dr. S. Soumya said some pregnant women from Parashurampur and Molakalmuru travel to border areas in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, to get illegal gender tests at unlicensed centers. She urged officials to take special precautions to identify and stop such cases.

Committee member K. P. Meenakshi raised concerns about the falling number of female children, particularly in Hosdurga and Holalkere taluks. Asha workers highlighted the need for continuous tracking of pregnant women and their movements.

Member Gayatri Sivaram noted that the government has offered a reward of one lakh rupees for reporting illegal gender

Dr. S. Soumya urged action against illegal gender tests in border areas, highlighting declining female child numbers and promoting public reporting with a ₹1 lakh reward.

detection activities. She stressed the importance of spreading awareness among the public to encourage reporting.

The committee decided to conduct unannounced inspections, ensuring scanning centers follow all legal requirements and maintain proper records. Dr. DM Abhinava, District RCH Officer, said state-level software is being used to analyze three years of data to detect "red mark" areas prone to illegal scanning.

The meeting was attended by key officials including District Family Welfare Officer Dr. T.D. Rekha, Dr. KG Satyanarayana, pediatrician Dr. Devaraj, Samaj activist Gayatri Sivaram, and representatives from local scanning centers. The committee resolved to strengthen monitoring, enforce the PCPNDT Act rigorously, and increase public awareness to safeguard female children in the district.

Journalists plan grand farewell ceremony for officer

CHIKKABALLAPURA

A warm farewell ceremony is being organized to honor M Junjanna, who has served for many years as Assistant Director in the Information and Public Relations Department of Chikkaballapur district.

He has now been promoted as Senior Assistant Director and transferred to Chitradurga district.

The Chikkaballapur District Working Journalists Association will host the event on Tuesday, March 31, at 11 am at Journalist Bhavan. The program will be held under the leadership of District President V Ravikumar. Members of the association said the event is planned to recognize Junjanna's dedicated service and contribution to the department and media community.

Association leaders have invited all office bearers, including state committee members, district executive members, and taluk-level presidents and secretaries, to attend the ceremony.

Senior and junior journalists, along with visual and print media representatives from across the district, are also requested to be present.

Organizers described the event as a special and memorable occasion to express gratitude and extend best wishes for Junjanna's new role.

District General Secretary Kagati Nagarajappa welcomed everyone and urged full participation to make the program meaningful and successful.

The association highlighted that such gatherings help strengthen unity among journalists and encourage appreciation of public service.

Attendees are expected to share their experiences and wish the officer success in his future responsibilities.

Demand raised to fill lakhs of vacant posts

KOLAR

Strong demands have been made for immediate recruitment to thousands of vacant government posts in the state, with candidates expressing frustration over continuous delays. A. Pramod Kumar, Managing Director of Vivek Infotech Competitive Examinations Training Institute, urged the government to fill around 2.84 lakh vacant posts without further delay. Speaking at a press conference at Journalist Bhawan, he alleged that the government is only making promises without issuing recruitment notifications.

He said many candidates across the state have been protesting against the delay, but no concrete action has been taken. Though the recent budget announced filling over 56,000 posts, he pointed out that the recruitment process has still not started, leading to a loss of trust among aspirants.

Resource person S.R. Rakhesh criticized the government for focusing only on reservation and internal reservation issues while ignoring the future of job seekers. He said recruitment should not be delayed due to unresolved policy matters and suggested proceeding with appointments based on existing rules, with adjustments later if needed.

Public Relations Officer C.G. Murali raised concerns about language barriers in competitive exams. He said question papers are often prepared in English and poorly translated into Kannada, making it difficult for Kannada medium students to understand.

He urged the government to ensure fair opportunities for all candidates. Several aspirants and representatives were present and supported the demand for immediate action.

WORKER PROTECTION DRIVE

Focus on welfare of sanitation workers strengthens

GADAG

District authorities have stressed the need to improve the welfare of sanitation workers and address their problems on priority.

Deputy Commissioner C N Sridhara chaired the quarterly review meeting of the district-level Safai Karmachari Committee at the Collector's office. He said sanitation workers play a key role in keeping society clean and healthy, and their services must be respected and protected.

He directed officials to organise regular free health check-up camps for workers and provide medical kits. He also instructed departments to supply safety gear such as gloves, masks, shoes, and uniforms without delay to ensure their safety at work.

The meeting discussed the need to clear pending applications related to scholarships and housing schemes for the children of sanitation workers. Officials were asked to ensure timely payment of salaries directly into bank accounts and provide insurance coverage to all workers.

Sridhara said workers can directly approach the administration if they face any issues. He assured that pending housing applications will be reviewed quickly and deserving beneficiaries will be given priority.

Officials also reviewed problems faced by sanitation workers, including delays in wages, lack of safety measures, and difficulties in accessing government benefits.

Several officers, including Rohana Jagadisha and social welfare officials, attended the meeting. Members of the Safai Karmachari association also shared their concerns.

Authorities said steps will be taken to improve working conditions and ensure better support for sanitation workers across the district.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PRABHAVATI B SARAF W/o LATE RAM S NADAKARNI**, R/o A-503, Shri Vallabh Pratishtha, Fifth Cross, Opposite Bhandari School, Bhagyanagar, Belgaum, Tilakwadi, Belagavi, Karnataka-590006, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **PRABHA RAM NADKARNI.**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHIVARAJU N S/o NARAYANAPPA** R/o No 17, 18, 1st Cross, Manjunatha Layout,Opp Udan Goodown, S Bingipura, Jigani, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560105, have changedthe name of my minor daughter **HESHIKA S** aged 3 years and she shall hereafter be known as **RITHANYA S.**

NAME CHANGE

I, **SAIYED KASHIF** HUSSAIN, Residing at No. 200, 1st Main Road, Defence Layout, Vidyaranyapura Bengaluru-560097, have changed my Minor Son's name from TAMEEM YAHYA SAIYED to **SAIYED TAMEEM YAHAYA**, vide affidavit dated: 28.03.2026, before Notary G.DAYANANDA, Bengaluru.

Document Lost

My client by name **Sri. Ramesh Rao** Son of Sri. Vittala Rao, residing at Vaddarahalli Village, Solur Hobli, Magadi Taluk and Bangalore South District, has lost Original Registered Sale Deed dated: 20-02-2008, executed by Sri. Yashwantha Rao and his family members in favour of Sri. A. Babu Rao, which is duly registered as Document No. **MGD-1-02422/2007-08**, CD. No. MGDD-34, Book-1, Registered on **23-02-2008** and Registered at Sub Registrar Office, Magadi, while Xerox at Magadi Town on 21-03-2026. Hence, if anyone found the said document, please intimate the same or handover the same to me or my client.
Place;-Ramanagara,
Date;-29-03-2026.

RAJINI. M.S., B.A., LL.B.,
ADVOCATE.,
1ST FLOOR, SOCIETY BUILDING, PLD BANK ROAD, OPPOSITE OLD BUS STOP,
RAMANAGARA TOWN-562159
MOB: 8884242935.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is given to the General public from **Sri.H.Karibasaveshwara Char** son of B.Hanumantha char, resident of Door No.560, Sathyanarayana Nilaya, ward No.9, I am lost Ashoka Road, Hiriyur Town, Chitradurga Dist. the original deeds Viz: a) Registered sale deed dt.06.01.2000, registered as No.2064/1999-2000 b) Registered sale dt.23.09.2006, registered as No.HYR-1-01871/2006-07 c) Registered sale deed dt 02.07.2007, registered as No.HYR-1- 00921/2007-08, at Hiriyur Taluk office dt.25.03.2026. In this regard I have lodged online complaint to police department, vide lost Report No.**2128149/2026**, vide lost vide lost Report Report No.**2128157/2026** Hence anybody having and No.2128165/2026, Dt.27.03.2026. title interest, and right in any manner over the schedule properties and I am currently taking a loan from the Techfino Capital Private ltd, Hiriyur branch. If anyone has the above original registered documents, please bring them. Schedule: 1. House Property bearing municipal A.No: 3462/A-587/2- 3440/A and having E-Katha No.1-3-12, measuring East-West: 6.705613 meter, North-South: 5.059690 meter, 2. House Property bearing municipal A.No: 3463/588/A- 3441/A and having E-Katha No.1-3-15, measuring East- West: 4.724409 meter, North-South: 4.572009 meter, Hiriyur Town, at Ashoka Road, Both are situated Chitradurga Dist.

Sri.H.Karibasaveshwara Char
S/o B.Hanumanthachar,
resident of Door No.560, Sathyanarayana Nilaya,
ward No.9, Ashoka Road, Hiriyur Town,
Chitradurga Dist
Mobile No: **9448697310**

IN THE COURT THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE, KRISHNAGIRI
TROP. No:149/2025

1. Ramachandra Reddy and others
..... Petitioners
versus
1. Sunanda M. Reddy, W/o. Muni Reddy, Hindu, aged about 53 years, residing at No.781, 9th Main, 3rd Cross, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560 034, Karnataka State, 2nd Respondent
2. Bhaskar Reddy, S/o. Venkataswamy Reddy, Hindu, aged about 46 years, residing at D.No.66, Ramasagara Village, Bommsandra Post, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore -99, Karnataka State, ... 3rd Respondent
3. Chandra Sekar Reddy, S/o. Gopal Reddy, Hindu, aged about 54 years, residing at D.No.186, Ramasagara Village, Bommsandra Post, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-99, Karnataka State, ... 4th Respondent
4. Ramesh, S/o. Venkataswamy Reddy, Hindu, aged about 45 years, residing at D.No.133, Old Chandapura, Chandapura Post, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka State, 5th Respondent
5. Viswanatha Reddy, S/o. Yella Reddy, Hindu, aged about 50 years, residing at D.No.292, Marasur Village and Post, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka State, ... 6th Respondent
6. Rangaswamy, S/o. Late. Lakshminarashimman, Hindu, aged about 65 years, residing at Plot No.91, II Cross, Appavoo Nagar, Hosur Town and Taluk, Krishnagir District, ... 7th Respondent
7. Shanthi, W/o. Manoharan, Hindu, aged about 62 years, residing at No.371, Flat No.B-1 East Main Road, Anna Nagar West, extension, Chennai-600 101, 10th Respondent
8. Jaganatha Reddy, S/o. Krishna Reddy, Hindu, aged about 47 years, residing at Bommsandra Village, Kuthagondapalli Post, Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri District, ... 11th Respondent
9. Vijayalakshmi, W/o. Shiva Reddy, Hindu, aged about 44 years, residing at No.11 Maruthi Nagar Layour, Opp to Guest Line, Yadavanahalli Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka State-562 107, ... 14th Respondent
10. Canara Bank, Agricultural Finance Branch, Krish Bhavan, Hodson Circle, Bangalore. ...15 Respondent

NOTICE

It is informed you that the above petitioner has been filed the above case against you for the TROP.No: 149/2025. The above case is posted on 01.04.2026 before the Hon'ble court for your appearance. On that day at about 10.00 AM you should appear before the Hon'ble court by person or through your counsel. Failing which the above case will be decided as ex-parte against you. Please note.

By court order
Advocate
A. RAVI, B.Sc.,B.L..
Advocate ENL No: MS.3221/2007, No.1/360, HIG 25, TNHB, Court Building Opp. Erranahalli-Po. Palacode-Tk. Dharmapuri-Dt. 636808. Tamil Nadu. Cell: 97908 66847,

QUICK READ

2 India-bound oil vessels likely to cross Hormuz soon

NEW DELHI

Two more merchant vessels carrying petroleum products for India were likely transiting the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, even as the geopolitical tensions continue to disrupt movement through the critical maritime route. The development comes amid heightened uncertainty in the region after Iran claimed 'full control' over the strategic waterway following recent hostilities involving the US and Israel. According to sources, Indian Navy warships have been deployed near key ports to provide assistance, with more vessels expected to arrive from the Strait in the coming days.

BJP moves ECI over 'seal' row in Kerala

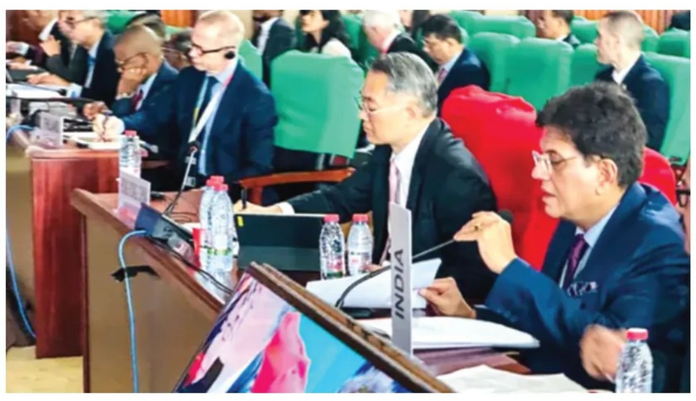
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The controversy over the alleged use of the BJP's official seal on a circular issued by the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) in connection with election procedures in the Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha constituency has intensified, with the party approaching the Election Commission of India, alleging a larger political conspiracy. The BJP has strongly objected to the incident, claiming that attempts are being made to pass it off as a mere procedural lapse by an individual official. What was initially seen as a procedural error has, according to the BJP, now assumed the dimensions of a deliberate political plot involving sections of the state administration and officials within the Election Commission.

India calls for consensus-driven WTO reforms

At MC14 in Cameroon, India underlined that consensus remains the foundation of the WTO's legitimacy.

NEW DELHI



Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who is leading the Indian delegation, underlined that consensus remains the foundation of the WTO's legitimacy.

Speaking during the second day of deliberations, Goyal cautioned against any attempts to dilute this principle, stating that member countries should not be compelled to accept rules they do not agree with. He stressed that rebuilding trust among member nations is essential to overcoming the current deadlock in global trade negotiations.

India also called for a thorough assessment of the root causes behind the ongoing challenges within the WTO framework. According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India emphasized that all discussions must remain transparent, inclusive, and driven by member participation. The country warned that any fragmentation within the WTO's institutional structure could significantly weaken the multilateral trading system.

Highlighting the need for a level-playing field, India pointed to long-standing asymmetries that originated during the Uruguay Round negotiations. It urged prioritization of unresolved issues such as food security, public stockholding programs, special safeguard mechanisms, and cotton trade concerns before introducing new topics into the negotiation agenda.

India further expressed concern over the continued dysfunction of the WTO's dispute settlement system. It noted that without an effective mechanism for resolving disputes, global trade rules risk losing their enforceability, disproportionately affecting smaller and developing economies.

India warned against misuse of transparency rules for trade retaliation or challenging domestic policies, stressing the need for capacity-building support for all members. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal reaffirmed India's commitment to WTO reforms, urging a time-bound process with clear milestones based on evidence and active participation from all members.

Modi credits farmers for development boost

NOIDA

Addressing a large public gathering in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh, the Prime Minister emphasized that improved connectivity through modern infrastructure would significantly enhance the agricultural economy of western Uttar Pradesh.

He stated that the expansion of connectivity in the region would strengthen food processing industries and enable local agricultural produce to access global markets more efficiently.

Modi noted that farmers have played a crucial role not only in agriculture but also in supporting India's energy security. He expressed gratitude to them for contributing to ethanol production through sugarcane cultivation, which has helped reduce the country's dependence on crude oil imports. According to him, ethanol blending with petrol has provided substantial economic relief, particularly during a period marked by global uncertainty.

Highlighting the scale of impact, the Prime Minister said that without the expansion of ethanol production, India would have needed to import nearly 45 million barrels of crude oil annually, equivalent to about seven billion litres. He described this as a major saving for the country and a testament to the contribution of farmers. Modi also acknowledged the role of local farmers in enabling the airport project by providing land. He thanked them for their cooperation, stating that agriculture remains central to the region's economy and that their support was vital in turning the project into reality.

Highlighting growth despite global challenges, Narendra Modi said key infrastructure projects in western Uttar Pradesh—including a Noida semiconductor unit.

'Global leaders respect Modi's diplomatic outreach skills'

NEW DELHI

Former Indian diplomat Veena Sikri said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is widely respected across the world for his ability to engage with leaders from different political backgrounds. Speaking about the ongoing tensions involving Iran, Israel, and the United States, she noted that Modi has maintained communication with all sides.

Sikri said that the Prime Minister has spoken to leaders of Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States during the crisis. She added that his approach of maintaining dialogue with multiple stakeholders has earned him strong global regard and support.

Commenting on recent remarks by Donald Trump, Sikri said Iran continues to deny any formal talks with the United States. However, she mentioned that there are speculations about messages being exchanged through Pakistan. She clarified that Pakistan is not acting as a mediator but may be passing messages between the two sides. According to her, Iran has rejected a reported 15-point plan from the US, stating it has its own approach.

Foreign affairs expert Robinder Sachdev said Trump values strong leadership and quick decisions. He noted that Trump sees similar qualities in Modi, who takes firm steps and ensures implementation.

Sachdev added that Trump expects favorable trade deals, increased energy purchases from the US, and balanced sourcing from countries like Russia. Meanwhile, a shipment of 47,000 metric tonnes of LPG arrived at Vadinar Terminal in Gujarat, marking continued energy cooperation efforts.

5 killed, many hurt in Odisha bus crash

NAYAGARH

At least five people, including four women, were killed and more than 20 others injured after a tourist bus met with an accident in Odisha's Nayagarh district late Friday night, police said.

The private bus, carrying over 40 passengers, was travelling from Berhampur to Harishankar on a trip when it reportedly lost control. The vehicle crashed into a roadside rock and overturned, causing severe damage.

According to officials, the impact was very strong, throwing several passengers out of the bus. More than 10 people were trapped under the damaged vehicle, making rescue efforts difficult.

The deceased include the driver and four passengers identified as Hari Patra, Laxmi Patra, Suprabha Sahu and Sumati Sahu, all residents of Berhampur.

Soon after the accident, rescue teams from nearby police stations, along with fire service personnel and ambulances, reached the spot. A major rescue operation was carried out, and those trapped inside were pulled out using gas cutters.

The injured were first taken to a nearby hospital for immediate treatment. Around 15 passengers who were seriously hurt were later shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital for better medical care.

Police officials said that a detailed investigation has been started to find out the exact cause of the accident.

BORDER TOURISM

J&K govt plans to develop Karnah as tourism hub

JAMMU

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday announced plans to develop Karnah in Kupwara district as a major border tourism hub, highlighting its vast potential for adventure and eco-tourism.

Responding to a question in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdullah said that Karnah offers significant opportunities for trekking, hiking, and nature-based tourism.

He emphasized that the government aims to tap the unexplored potential of remote border areas to promote sustainable tourism while generating employment and livelihood opportunities for local communities.

The Chief Minister acknowledged that tourism development in remote regions has not reached its full potential.

He stated that more efforts are needed to promote such areas, adding that the government is now focusing on expanding tourism beyond traditional destinations.

Border tourism in Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as a new initiative, opening previously restricted areas along the Line of Control (LoC) to visitors.

Regions such as Karnah, Gurez Valley, Keran, Teetwal, and Uri are being promoted as offbeat travel destinations.

These locations offer scenic landscapes, cultural richness, and unique views of the border. Keran and Teetwal, located along the Kishanganga River, provide visitors with rare glimpses of villages across the border.

Teetwal is also home to the Sharda Temple, a site of deep religious importance.

Gurez Valley is famed for its pristine beauty, rugged mountains, and Habba Khatoon peak, while Uri's Kaman Aman Setu offers views of a historic route. Machil is emerging as an adventure spot. The government says promoting these places will boost tourism, support border communities, and highlight the region's landscapes and heritage.

IKF Home Finance Limited

Equinox by Phoenix-Tower 3,10th Floor,Diamond Hills, Lumbini Avenue, Rai Durg, Gachibowli, Hyderabad |Telangana – 500081

POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY [(Appendix IV) Rule 8(1)]

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **IKF Home Finance Ltd.** (hereinafter referred to as "IKF") under Secuitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assests and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated mentioned below under Section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon you being the borrowers (names mentioned below) to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers mentioned herein below having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers mentioned herein below and to the public in general that the undersigned has Taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrowers mentioned here in above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with said property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **"IKF"** for an amount as mentioned herein under and interest thereon.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) LAN	Description of Secured Assets (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1	**Lan :- LNXTK03723-240008216** **1. Mr/Mrs. P Jayanna** **2. Mr/Mrs. N Nanjamma** **Are R/O.** Tumkur Koratagere Tallukukolala Hobali, Tumkur, Karnataka, India **And Also At:** Pid No. 152500302100800218 ,Pathaganahalli Village And Grama Panchayath, Korat, 175, Near Main Road -572129	All that Piece and Parcel of the Residential Building bearing Grama Panchayath Khatha No.175 (Old Khatha No. 177/310) and E-Khatha No. 152500302100800218 measuring East to West: 9,144 Mtrs and North to South: 6.096 Mtrs situated at Pathaganahalli Village, Kolala Hobli, Koratagere Taluk Tumkur District and bounded as follows: **East by:** House belongs to Shanthamma., **West by:** House belongs to P.N.Nataraju., **North by:** Road., **South by:** Site belongs to Shivakumaraswamy	**18.12.2025 Rs. 3,45,057/- (Rupees Three lakh Forty Five Thousand Fifty Seven Only)**	**24.03.2026**

Place : Tumkur, Karnataka
Date : 24.03.2026

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
For IKF Home Finance Limited

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

MINOR IRRIGATION AND GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION AND GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, KALABURAGI

IFT No. EE/MIGWDD/KAL/PB-3/2025-26/ 6281 DATED : 26-03-2026

CORRIGENDUM TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

Ref: IFT No. EE/MIGWDD/KAL/PB-3/2025-26/ 5795 DATED : 10-03-2026

The Tender Work Details and The Revised CALENDER OF EVENTS are given below

WORK DETAILS :

1) Name of work: CONSTRUCTION OF SERIES OF SHIRPUR PATTERN CHECKDAMS, DEEPENING & WIDENING OF NALA AND RECHARGE SHAFT OF SHIRPURA PATTERN WORKS UP TO KUDIGANUR NALA, LOCAL NALA NEAR GOLA-B VILLAGE, FROM KORWAR BRIDGE-WACCHHA BCB-INDANAKAL-MUTTIMADU, FROM MOGLA-MORGAL UP TO KAGINA RIVER, FROM BHOSGA TANK-KAPNOOR NEAR MALGATTI VILLAGE, FROM NAACHAWARA TO UP TO DEVNOOR VILLAGE, BILAWAR VIA SHIVAPUR AND AMBERKHED TOWARDS HANGARGA (K), FROM HATAGUNDA-HUNSIHADAGIL UP TO MALLI, FROM KADANI-MINAJGI UP TO BHIMALLI NALA IN KALABURAGI DISTRICT, 2) Approximate Value of Work in Rs.: **395922463.84,** 3) Earnest Money Deposit in Rs : 3960000.00, 4) Head of Account : **UNDER 4702 A.P.B. FOR THE YEAR 2025-26**, 5) Indent No. : **11392**

REVISED CALENDER OF EVENTS FOR THE ABOVE WORKS

Sl. No.	Information	Previous Dates	Revised Dates
01.	Pre-Bid Meeting Date & Time	**25-03-2026 Up to 11.00 Hours**	**25-03-2026 Up to 11.00 Hours**
02.	Last Date & Time for Tender Queries / Clarifications	**27-03-2026 Up to 11.00 Hours**	**27-03-2026 Up to 11.00 Hours**
03.	**Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders**	**30-03-2026 Up to 17.30 Hours**	**31-03-2026 Up to 17.30 Hours**
04.	Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid	**01-04-2026 Up to 17.30 Hours**	**01-04-2026 Up to 17.30 Hours**
05.	Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid	**02-04-2026 Up to 17.30 Hours**	**02-04-2026 Up to 17.30 Hours**

The Tenderers may submit tenders for any or all the works given in the table through KPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka **(https://KPPP.Karnataka.gov.in).**

Conditions and additional information can be had through KPP-Portal **(https://KPPP.Karnataka. gov.in)**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
M.I. & G.W.D. Division, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1222/KSMC&A/2025-26

IKF Home Finance Limited

Equinox by Phoenix-Tower 3,10th Floor,Diamond Hills, Lumbini Avenue, Rai Durg, Gachibowli, Hyderabad Telangana - 500081

DEMAND NOTICE

UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 ("the Act") AND THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 ("the Rules")

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **IKF Home Finance Limited** (the Secured Creditor) under the Act and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sec. 13(12) of the Act read with Rule 3 issued Demand Notice(s) under Sec. 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the following borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice(s) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The undersigned reasonably believes that borrower(s) is / are avoiding the service of the Demand Notice(s), therefore the service of notice is being affected by affixation and publication as per Rules. The contents of Demand Notice(s) are extracted herein below :-

Sr. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower/s & Co-Borrower/s	Loan Amt.	Dt. of Demand Notice & O/s. Amt.	Description of the Property / Secured Asset
1.	**Loan A/C. No(S). :** LXXTK02824-250014440 **1. Mr/Mrs. Nadeem Pasha** **2. Mr/Mrs. Mohammed Shaffkath** **Add:** Kadaba Hobli Gubbi Talluku Lingammanahalli Tumkur - 572216. **Also At:** Kadaba Hobli Gubbi Talluku Lingammanahalli Tumkur, Karnataka, India - 572216 **3. Mr/Mrs. Mohammed Saif** **Add:** Kadaba Hobli Gubbi Talluku Lingammanahalli Tumkur, Karnataka, India - 572216.	**Rs. 20,00,000/-**	**17.03.2026 Rs. 22,06,700/-** (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Six Thousand Seven Hundred Only) as on **11.03.2026**	All the piece and parcel of the Schedule Residential Building bearing Grama Panchayath Khatha No. 66/B (Old Khatha No. 66) and E-Khatha No. 152500202600820307 measuring East to West: 6.10 Mtrs and North to South: 23.16 Mtrs is situated at Lingammanahalli Village, Kadaba Hobli, Gubbi Taluk, Tumkur District as follows: **East:** Site belongs to Naveed Pasha, **West:** Property belongs to Balkiz Banu, **North:** Road, **South:** Land belongs to Ravikumar.
2.	**Loan A/C. No(S). :** LXXTK00324-250015093 **1. Mr/Mrs. Khadar Shariff** **2. Mr/Mrs. Mubeen Taj** **Add:** 1st Main 6th Cross Near A P J Abdul Kalam Parkrajiv Gandhi Nagar Tumkur, Tumkur, Karnataka, India. **Also At:** Extn, Melekote, Tumkur, Site No. 29, 2nd Stage, Tuda Layout, Veerasagara - 572101.	**Rs. 16,00,000/-**	**17.03.2026 Rs. 17,20,866/-** (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Twenty Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Six Only) as on **11.03.2026**	All the piece and parcel of the Schedule Residential Building constructed in Site No. 29 bearing Assessment No. 123602 (Old Khatha No.29/834) and E-Khatha No. 2000553400 measuring East to West: 6.00 Mtrs and North to South: 7.50 Mtrs is situated at Ward No. 10, Melekote-Veerasagara Extension, Tumkur and **Bounded on:- East By:** C. S. Property, **West By:** Site No. 28, **North By:** Ashraya scheme House, **South By:** Road.

The borrower(s) are hereby advised to comply with the Demand Notice(s) and to pay the demand amount mentioned therein and hereinabove within 60 days from the date of this publication together with applicable interest, additional interest, bounce charges, cost and expenses till the date of realization of payment. The borrower(s) may note that **IKF Home Finance Limited** is a secured creditor and the loan facility availed by the Borrower(s) is a secured debt against the immovable property / properties being the secured asset(s) mortgaged by the borrower(s). In the event borrower(s) are failed to discharge their liabilities in full within the stipulated time, The Secured Creditor shall be entitled to exercise all the rights U/s. 13(4) of the Act to take possession of the secured assets(s) including but not limited to transfer the same by way of sale or by invoking any other remedy available under the Act and the Rules thereunder and realize payment. The Secured Creditor is also empowered to ATTACH AND / OR SEAL the secured assets(s) before enforcing the right to sale or transfer. Subsequent to the Sale of the secured assets(s), the Secured Creditor also has a right to initiate separate legal proceedings to recover the balance dues, in case the value of the mortgaged properties is insufficient to cover the dues payable to the Secured Creditor. This remedy is in addition and independent of all the other remedies available to the Secured Creditor under any other law.

The attention of the borrower(s) is invited to Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets and further to Section 13(13) of the Act, whereby the borrower(s) are restrained / prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the secured asset(s) or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business) any of the secured asset(s), without prior written consent of the Secured Creditor and non-compliance with the above is an offence punishable under Section 29 of the said Act. The copy of the Demand Notice is available with the undersigned and the borrower(s) may, if they so desire, can collect the same from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
For IKF Home Finance Limited

Place : Tumkur, Karnataka
Date : 17.03.2026

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)

Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL,
Dandavathi Reservoir Project Division, Shikaripura.

Short Term Tender Notification-43/2025-26 Date: 25-03-2026(2nd Call)
Ref:Short Term Tender Notification- 30/2025-26 Date: 29-12-2025
(Two document System & KPPP System only)

Short term percentage tender are invited as per K.P.P.P on behalf of Managing Director KNNL Bangalore from eligible contractors such as KPWD Class-IV and Above. (SC Category Contractors Should be Participate) The tenderers are required to submit tenders only through K.P.P. portal of Govt of Karnataka **(http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

Construction bridge works (07 works) in Hosanagara Taluk of Shivamogga dist Work Amount put to tender varies From Rs. 14.95 Lakhs To 64.92 Lakhs and EMD Varies From 0.16 Lakhs To Rs. 0.56 Lakhs

1) Date of downloading & submission of tender (through KPPP) will be on **27.03.2026 to 08.04.2026 up to 5.30 PM 2)** Last date for queries will be on **07-04-2026 @ 5:30 PM 3)** Opening of technical bid will be on **10-04-2026 @ 11.00 AM 4)** Financial bid will be opened after approval of technical bid.

For more details visit website from date-**27.03.2026** at **(http:// www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer. KNNL,
DRP Division, Shikaripura

DIPR/SMG/No-152-03/ zenkar/2025-26

CH CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

QUICK READ

Fire erupts in Bowenpally optical shop, controlled

Hyderabad

A fire broke out in an optical shop in Bowenpally, Hyderabad, on Saturday morning. Fire officials said the incident occurred at around 11:41 am, after which two fire vehicles rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. No casualties were reported in the incident. Officials said the cause of the fire and the extent of property loss are yet to be determined. Further details are awaited as authorities continue their investigation.

Court grants bail in AI summit protest case

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has granted anticipatory bail to Rajeev Kumar in the AI Summit protest case after earlier interim protection from arrest. The order was passed by Additional Sessions Judge Amit Bansal of Patiala House Court after hearing arguments from Delhi Police and the defence counsel. The protest was held by Indian Youth Congress members at Bharat Mandapam during the AI Impact Summit on February 20. Kumar's counsel said the allegations relate to recording the protest, and that he has cooperated with the investigation. The court directed Kumar to continue cooperating and ordered police to give seven days' notice before any arrest. Earlier, bail was granted to other accused, including Udai Bhanu Chib. Interim relief was also given to Vikas Chikara, who was asked to join the investigation.

Murshidabad tense after violence, security upped

KOLKATA

Shops remained closed and fewer people were seen on streets in Murshidabad after violence during a Ram Navami procession. Prohibitory orders were imposed in Raghunathganj and Jangipur following clashes involving stone-pelting, vandalism and arson between two groups. Police said the situation is now normal and under control. Around 30 people have been arrested, though their identities were not disclosed. Personnel from West Bengal Police, Central Armed Police Forces, and RAF were deployed, with route marches conducted to restore public confidence. Markets largely stayed shut except for essential services, while traffic movement remained normal.

MEA denies Musk presence in Modi-Trump callk

MEA clarifies details of Modi-Trump call, denies Elon Musk's presence amid reports by US media

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Saturday rejected reports claiming Elon Musk was part of a recent phone call between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump.

In an official statement, the MEA said the March 24 conversation was strictly between the two leaders. It added that the call focused on exchanging views regarding the situation in West Asia. The clarification came after a report by The New York Times suggested Musk had joined the discussion.

Responding to the report, the MEA stated that no third party was involved in the call. It reiterated that only Modi and Trump participated in the conversation.

Earlier, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt described the interaction between the two leaders as productive. She highlighted that Trump shares a strong relationship with Modi and values such discussions on global issues.

Musk's presence in the call was unusual, as private individuals rarely take part in conversations between heads of state. The report also suggested that Musk's involvement indicated improving ties with Trump.

The development follows a previous fallout between Trump and Musk after the billionaire stepped down from a government role linked to workforce reforms under the Department of Government Efficiency.

However, recent reports indicate that relations between the two have stabilised. Despite this, the MEA firmly denied Musk's participation, emphasizing that the diplomatic exchange remained strictly between the two leaders.

Iran will set own terms in talks: Expert

NEW DELHI

Soni said that meaningful negotiations require both sides to move closer through dialogue, which involves compromise, where each party gives up certain demands to reach a balanced outcome

A former diplomat has said that Iran is unlikely to agree to conditions imposed by the United States, stressing that any talks will happen on Iran's own terms. Vidya Bhushan Soni made these remarks while responding to recent comments by US President Donald Trump, who suggested that Iran was eager to reach a deal.

Soni pointed out that Trump's statements appeared contradictory. He noted that while the US President invited Iran for negotiations, he also issued strong warnings and outlined strict conditions. According to Soni, such mixed messaging reflects a strategic approach rather than a clear policy direction.

He emphasised that Iran, with its deep-rooted history, culture, and national pride, is unlikely to accept external pressure easily. Instead, it will approach any negotiation from a position of self-respect and independence.

Explaining the current situation, Soni said both countries are putting forward their initial standpoints before formal talks begin. These early positions are often strong and opposing, as each side tries to establish leverage. He added that this phase is a normal part of diplomatic engagement.

Soni further explained that meaningful negotiations require both sides to move closer through dialogue. This process involves compromise, where each party gives up certain demands to reach a balanced outcome.

He also noted that before entering serious discussions, both nations will internally review their priorities and limits. Only after understanding each other's positions and agreeing on basic rules will formal negotiations begin.

According to Soni, the final goal is to find a "common ground" acceptable to both sides, which can only be achieved through patience, dialogue, and mutual adjustments.

Mamata playing 'victim card' politics: Shah

KOLKATA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday accused West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of playing "victim card" politics while releasing a chargesheet against the Trinamool Congress government.

Addressing a press conference in Kolkata, Shah said Banerjee often portrays herself as a victim during elections and claimed that people of Bengal now understand her approach. He also questioned the deployment of judicial officers during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, stating it was seen only in Bengal.

Shah alleged that infiltrators were being included in voter lists and said the BJP would identify and remove them from both voter rolls and the country. He further claimed that if voted to power, the BJP would act strongly to stop infiltration.

Criticising the state government, Shah said 77 communities were added to the OBC category, alleging that most belonged to one religion. He questioned whether such decisions should be based on religion.

He also addressed recruitment issues, promising a five-year age relaxation for candidates affected by alleged scams. Shah assured that eligible youth would get another chance in SSC recruitment with a transparent process.

HM releases BJP chargesheet in Bengal

TAhead of the West Bengal Assembly elections, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, along with Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari and BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya, released a "chargesheet" in Kolkata against the ruling Trinamool Congress government.Addressing the press, Shah said the upcoming elections would be a choice between "fear and trust." He accused Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of promoting politics driven by fear, corruption, violence, and false promises over the past 15 years.Shah claimed the chargesheet reflects people's concerns and urged voters to decide the state's future. He expressed confidence that the BJP would form the next government, stating the party has been opposing such governance since 2011.Highlighting national security, Shah said infiltration remains a key issue in Bengal. He also praised Adhikari for raising concerns about law and order, economic challenges, and governance across the state.

Reddy launches Rs 700 cr TEMPLE PROJECT

RANGAREDDY

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Saturday laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of Sri Machileshwara Swamy and Sri Omkareshwara Swamy temples as part of the Musi Riverfront Project.

These temples are situated within the historic Veerabhadra Swamy temple complex at Gandipet-Manchirevula along the Musi river. The government plans to restore and redevelop this 1,400-year-old site over an area of 8 acres, with an estimated investment of Rs 700 crore.

Speaking at the event, Reddy said Hyderabad stands as a symbol of religious harmony and that the project is aimed at preserving the rich heritage of the temple complex. He added that the initiative is being carried out with devotion and will serve the spiritual needs of Lord Shiva's devotees. He also cautioned against the spread of misinformation regarding the project.

The Chief Minister earlier stressed the importance of reviving the Musi river, stating that it is crucial for the long-term development of Hyderabad. The project focuses on restoring the river's ecosystem, improving flood control measures, and developing public spaces along the riverbanks.

Officials stated that the proposed Gandhi Sarovar project will be among the first to be implemented under the broader riverfront plan. The initiative draws inspiration from well-known riverfront developments in cities like London, Singapore, and Ahmedabad, particularly the Sabarmati riverfront model.The Musi Riverfront Development Project aims to balance heritage conservation with modern urban development, while also improving environmental conditions and strengthening public infrastructure in the region.

Dhami takes up Revenue Lok Adalat to speed up justice

DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Saturday inaugurated the state-level 'Revenue Lok Adalat' through video conferencing, aiming to simplify and speed up the resolution of pending cases. He said the initiative reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of inclusive development and ensuring that government benefits reach every citizen quickly and easily.

Dhami stated that the programme is designed to resolve long-pending revenue disputes in a meaningful and time-bound manner. He noted that such cases are not just legal matters but are directly linked to farmers' land, family livelihoods, and personal dignity.The Chief Minister informed that over 400 revenue courts are functioning across the state at different levels, including the Revenue Council, Commissioner courts, Collector courts, and courts at tehsil levels. Currently, more than 50,000 cases are pending in these courts.To address this backlog, the government has introduced the Revenue Lok Adalat based on the principles of simplification, resolution, disposal, and satisfaction. Under the "Justice at Your Doorstep" concept, Lok Adalats are being held at 210 locations across all 13 districts, with around 6,933 cases expected to be resolved quickly.

Apart from land disputes, cases related to excise, food, stamp duty, SARFAESI Act, Goonda Act, CrPC, Electricity Act, Senior Citizens Act, and Rent Control Act will also be settled in a transparent manner.Dhami also highlighted that revenue court processes have been digitised through an online portal, allowing people to file and track cases from home. He directed officials to complete inheritance-related mutations on time and resolve land disputes within a month.

IndiGo flight makes emergency landing after engine scare

NEW DELHI

A full emergency was declared at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport on Saturday, after an IndiGo flight purportedly developed a technical snag mid-air, leading to the failure of one of its engines. The flight, 6E 579, operated on a Boeing 737 aircraft, coming from Vishakhapatnam, made an emergency landing at the Delhi airport at 10.52 a.m. this morning.

The Delhi-bound flight made an emergency but safe landing on IGI's runway number 28.

Satheesan sought RSS support earlier: Sangh leader

KOCHI

A fresh political controversy erupted after Sangh Parivar leader R V Babu on Saturday alleged that UDF chairman V D Satheesan had approached RSS leaders for support during the 2001 and 2006 Assembly elections. The Congress leader strongly denied the claims, calling them baseless.

Babu, who is also the state president of the Hindu Aikya Vedi, said in a television interview that Satheesan had met RSS leaders in the past to secure electoral support. He further claimed that Satheesan, who had earlier denied attending an RSS event in 2006, later admitted to it, raising questions about his statements.The Sangh leader also alleged that after losing the 1996 Assembly election to CPI candidate P Raju, Satheesan sought RSS backing to strengthen his political position. He added that the Congress party's current stand against the RSS was different from its approach in earlier years. Babu openly stated that he wants Satheesan to be defeated and described both the UDF and LDF as similar in nature.Responding to the allegations, Satheesan rejected the claims outright and said he has never sought support from the RSS or the BJP. He argued that Babu's statement expressing a desire for his defeat itself proves that there is no understanding between him and the RSS.

The Congress leader also reiterated his earlier allegations of links between the RSS and CPI(M). He questioned the CPI(M)'s support from the People's Democratic Party, asking whether it aligned with secular values. Satheesan further accused the CPI(M) of shielding leaders involved in the Sabarimala gold misappropriation cases.

EV SCHEME UPDATE

Centre revises PM E-DRIVE Scheme deadlines, caps

NEW DELHI

The government has revised the guidelines of the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme, introducing new deadlines and limits for electric vehicles under its incentive programme.

The scheme, with a total outlay of Rs 10,900 crore, aims to promote the adoption of electric mobility across the country.According to the updated notification, electric two-wheelers registered up to July 31, 2026, and electric three-wheelers, including e-rickshaws and e-carts, registered up to March 31, 2028, will be eligible for incentives.

The maximum ex-factory price to avail these benefits has been capped at Rs 1.5 lakh for two-wheelers and Rs 2.5 lakh for three-wheelers.

The Centre clarified that the scheme is limited by funds. If the allocated budget is exhausted before the final deadline of March 31, 2028, the scheme or its specific components may be closed earlier, and no additional claims will be accepted thereafter.Officials explained that the terminal date refers to the last date for vehicle registration to qualify for incentives. They also noted that the target for electric three-wheelers under the L5 category has already been achieved, leading to its closure on December 26, 2025.Under the scheme, incentives are capped at 24,79,120 electric two-wheelers and 39,034 e-rickshaws and e-carts. The revised guidelines are intended to ensure efficient use of funds, simplify the incentive structure, and boost the adoption of electric vehicles nationwide.

Jothimani slams Cong over seat selection transparency issues

CHENNAI

Congress MP S Jothimani has raised serious concerns over the party's seat selection process in Tamil Nadu, alleging a complete lack of transparency in the ongoing alliance arrangements for the April 23 Assembly elections.

In a strongly worded social media post on March 27, Jothimani claimed that decisions on constituency allocation under the DMK-led alliance were made without proper discussion. She said her demand for a transparent and consultative approach was ignored by those handling the process.

Her remarks come at a crucial time when major political parties such as the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam are finalising their strategies. At the same time, new entrants like Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, led by actor Vijay, are also gaining attention ahead of the elections.

Jothimani accused the state leadership of handling seat-sharing talks in a "highly secretive manner," sidelining the need for open discussions. She expressed disappointment over what she described as the neglect of grassroots workers, stating that loyal party members who had worked for years were being overlooked."It is painful to see the hard work of dedicated Congress volunteers being compromised by those who have contributed very little to the party's growth in Tamil Nadu," she said.

QUICK READ

Zelenskiy meets UAE Prez to strengthen security, defence co-op

Dubai

The meeting marked a significant step in strengthening ties between Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates, as both sides explored ways to expand collaboration in strategic sectors. According to official statements, discussions focused on boosting defence coordination and addressing shared security concerns amid ongoing regional and global challenges. In addition to defence matters, the two leaders reviewed opportunities to deepen economic relations under their existing Comprehensive Economic Agreement. The agreement is seen as a key framework for enhancing trade, investment, and broader bilateral cooperation between the two nations. The Emirati state news agency WAM reported that both sides expressed interest in advancing mutual partnerships across multiple sectors, though specific details of the discussions were not disclosed.

Tiger Woods arrested on DUI charge after vehicle rollover

Florida

According to the Martin County Sheriff's Office, the incident occurred on a two-lane road near Woods' residence in Jupiter Island. Officials said Woods was driving a Land Rover when the accident took place during the afternoon hours. Sheriff John Budensiek stated at a press briefing that Woods had been attempting to overtake a work truck pulling a trailer at high speed when he clipped the rear of the vehicle. The impact caused his car to roll onto its side. Woods reportedly managed to crawl out through the passenger-side door before emergency responders arrived at the scene. The 15-time major champion was taken into custody and later released the same day.

Iran still retains significant missile capability: US intel

Nearly a month into the ongoing military conflict involving the US and Israel against Iran, intelligence assessments indicate that only about one-third of Iran's missile arsenal has been destroyed, raising concerns about Tehran's remaining military strength.

WASHINGTON

According to multiple sources familiar with classified intelligence, the United States has confirmed the destruction of roughly one-third of Iran's extensive missile stockpile.

However, the status of another significant portion remains uncertain. Intelligence officials believe that ongoing airstrikes and bombardments may have damaged, destroyed, or buried additional missiles within Iran's underground tunnel systems and fortified bunkers. These findings were shared by individuals who requested anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the information.

The assessment also extends to Iran's drone capabilities. Sources suggest that

while a portion of these unmanned systems has been eliminated, a considerable number may still be operational or recoverable. This raises concerns about Iran's ability to sustain or rebuild its offensive capacity once hostilities decrease.

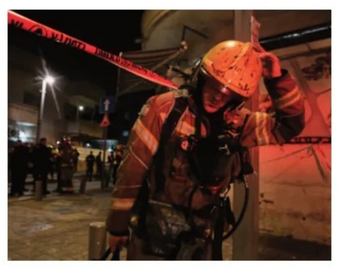
Despite heavy bombardment, intelligence reports indicate that Iran retains a notable missile inventory. Experts warn that some of the missiles believed to be buried or damaged could potentially be restored and redeployed in the future. This lingering capability underscores the complexity of the conflict and the challenges in fully neutralizing Iran's military infrastructure.

The findings appear to contradict recent public statements made by former U.S. President Donald Trump, who claimed that Iran had very few rockets left. While his remarks suggested a near depletion of Iran's arsenal, intelligence sources highlight a more nuanced reality, with significant uncertainties still surrounding the extent of damage inflicted.

Additionally, officials have acknowledged that remaining Iranian missiles and drones could pose a threat to future U.S. operations, particularly in securing the strategically critical Strait of Hormuz. This vital maritime route plays a crucial role in global energy supplies, making its protection a top priority amid ongoing tensions.

Houthis launch missile attack on Israel as Middle East conflict deepens

CAIRO



Iran-aligned Houthi forces in Yemen launched missiles targeting Israel on Saturday, marking their first direct involvement since the ongoing Iran war began, as the conflict continues to widen across the region.

According to Israeli authorities, at least one missile fired from Yemen was successfully intercepted, preventing damage or casualties.

The attack signals a significant escalation in the conflict, which has now entered its fifth week following the initial strikes on Iran by the United States and Israel on February 28.

The growing involvement of regional actors like the Houthis raises fears of a broader and more prolonged war in the Middle East.

The Houthi group declared that its military operations would continue until what it described as aggression against Iran and allied factions ends across all fronts. The group had earlier warned it was prepared to intervene if there was any escalation against Iran and the so-called Axis of Resistance, a network of Iran-backed forces in the region.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated that Washington expects to conclude its military operations within weeks. However, the continued involvement of additional actors like the Houthis could complicate those timelines and prolong instability.

The conflict has already had devastating consequences, with thousands reported killed and widespread destruction across multiple regions. It has also triggered the most significant disruption to global energy supplies in recent history, sending shockwaves through international markets and increasing fears of rising inflation worldwide.

The Houthis have previously demonstrated their ability to strike targets far beyond Yemen's borders. Their operations have disrupted key shipping routes around the Arabian Peninsula and the Red Sea, particularly during their earlier support for Hamas in Gaza following the October 7, 2023 attacks.

With tensions escalating and more players entering the conflict, analysts warn that the situation risks spiraling into a wider regional war, with far-reaching geopolitical and economic consequences.

Iran-linked hackers breach FBI director Kash Patel's Personal Email

TEHRAN

Iran-linked hackers have reportedly infiltrated the personal email account of Kash Patel, publishing private photographs and documents online, in what marks a significant cybersecurity breach involving a top U.S. official.

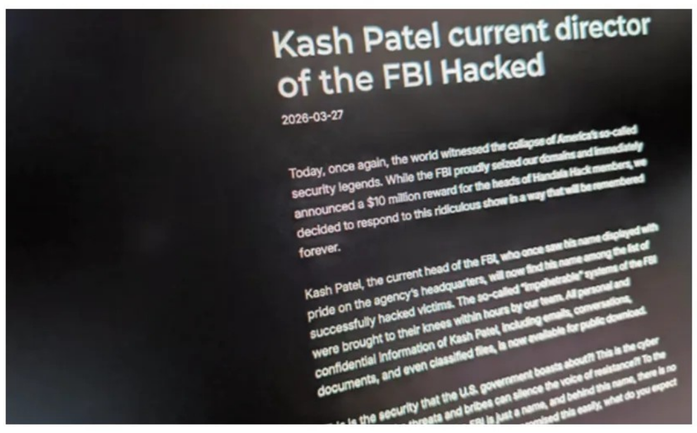
The hacking group, identified as Handala Hack Team, claimed responsibility for the intrusion and released a series of personal images allegedly taken from Patel's email account.

These included photographs showing the FBI director in casual settings, such as smoking cigars, riding in an antique convertible, and posing for mirror selfies. The group stated on its website that Patel had now joined its list of successfully hacked victims.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation confirmed that Patel's personal email had been targeted. However, officials emphasized that the compromised data did not include any classified or sensitive government information. FBI spokesperson Ben Williamson said the agency had taken all necessary steps to mitigate potential risks, adding that the material accessed was historical in nature.

Cybersecurity experts believe that Handala operates as part of a broader network of hacking personas linked to Iranian government cyberintelligence efforts. While the group presents itself as a pro-Palestinian vigilante organization, Western analysts have suggested it may serve as a front for state-backed cyber operations.

The breach underscores growing concerns over cyber warfare and digital espionage amid escalating geopolitical


Kash Patel current director of the FBI Hacked
2026-03-27
Today, once again, the world witnessed the collapse of America's so-called security legends. While the FBI proudly seized our domains and immediately announced a $10 million reward for the heads of Handala Hack members, we decided to respond to this ridiculous show in a way that will be remembered forever.
Kash Patel, the current head of the FBI, who once saw his name displayed with pride on the agency's headquarters, will now find his name among the list of successfully hacked victims. The so-called "impenetrable" systems of the FBI were brought to their knees within hours by our team. All personal and confidential information of Kash Patel, including emails, conversations, documents, and even classified files, is now available for public download.

tensions involving Iran and the United States. Analysts warn that such attacks are increasingly targeting not just government systems but also the personal accounts of high-ranking officials, potentially exposing them to blackmail or reputational damage.

Handala has also claimed responsibility for other recent cyberattacks, including a breach of Stryker Corporation earlier this month, in which the group alleged it had deleted a substantial volume of company data. The incident highlights the expanding scope and boldness of cyber operations linked to geopolitical conflicts, raising fresh concerns about the vulnerability of both public and private sector digital infrastructure.

Trump faces crucial decision as Iran war fuels global energy crisis

WASHINGTON

After nearly a month of sustained military operations conducted jointly by the United States and Israel, the situation in the Middle East continues to deteriorate.

Despite intensified diplomatic efforts, the conflict has expanded beyond its initial scope, with Iran maintaining significant leverage over global energy routes.

Analysts note that Tehran has effectively disrupted oil and gas shipments through the Gulf, contributing to one of the most severe energy supply shocks in modern history.

The ongoing instability has sent global markets into turmoil, pushing energy prices higher and raising concerns about inflation worldwide. At the same time, Iran has continued launching missile and drone attacks across the region, further complicating efforts to stabilize the situation. Experts say the conflict now poses not only a regional threat but also a broader economic challenge with global implications.

Within the White House, officials indicate that Trump is keen to avoid a prolonged military entanglement. He has reportedly instructed aides to emphasize a limited conflict duration of four to six weeks, signaling his desire to avoid what he has described as a forever war. However, insiders caution that this timeline appears increasingly uncertain as hostilities persist and expand.

At the same time, Trump has issued warnings of a potential escalation if diplomatic negotiations fail. His administration has explored backchannel communication efforts, including a reported 15-point peace proposal conveyed through Pakistan, suggesting an urgent attempt to find a negotiated resolution.

Despite these overtures, the prospects for meaningful dialogue remain unclear. Observers argue that the lack of trust between the parties and ongoing military actions on both sides make a diplomatic breakthrough difficult in the near term. As the conflict deepens, the choices facing Trump could define not only the trajectory of the war but also the legacy of his presidency.

Pope Leo urges wealth sharing during visit to Monaco

MONACO

The pontiff's visit to the tax-free microstate on the French Riviera drew large crowds, with many waving yellow flags under clear skies as he delivered a message centered on generosity and social responsibility. Known globally as a haven for billionaires, luxury yachts, and high-end living, Monaco provided a striking backdrop for the pope's appeal for wealth redistribution and compassion. Addressing the gathering, Pope Leo emphasized that material blessings carry a moral responsibility. In God's eyes, nothing is received in vain, he said, urging individuals to view wealth not as something to hoard but as a means to improve the lives of others. He added that every good entrusted to individuals carries an inherent obligation to be shared for the greater benefit of society.

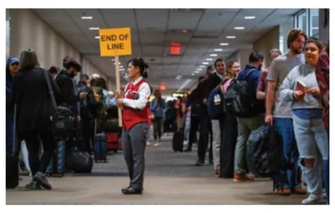
US Cong fails to resolve funding standoff, raising travel disruption concerns

NEW YORK

A prolonged funding standoff in the United States Congress remained unresolved, disrupting airport operations and halting paychecks for thousands of federal workers, as concerns grow over travel delays during the busy spring-break season.

Despite a day of intense legislative negotiations, lawmakers failed to break a six-week deadlock centered on disagreements over immigration enforcement policies. The impasse has directly impacted nearly 270,000 employees of the Department of Homeland Security, many of whom have been working without pay since mid-February.

The situation has begun to affect critical infrastructure, particularly airport operations, where staffing shortages and uncertainty have raised alarms about potential delays



and disruptions for travelers. With spring-break travel increasing passenger volumes, officials warn that continued inaction could exacerbate the situation further.

Earlier in the day, the United States Senate unanimously passed a bill aimed at restoring funding for most DHS functions while addressing the immigration dispute that triggered the crisis. However, the measure failed to advance sufficiently to resolve the broader impasse, leaving federal agencies in limbo.

In response to the ongoing crisis, the White House announced that Donald Trump had declared an emergency measure. This move is expected to allow airport security personnel to resume receiving pay as early as Monday, providing some immediate relief to a key segment of the affected workforce.

However, many other DHS employees, including those responsible for emergency response operations and coastal defense, are set to remain unpaid. The situation is further complicated by lawmakers preparing to leave Washington for a scheduled two-week recess, delaying any immediate resolution.

The continued gridlock highlights deep political divisions over immigration policy and raises broader concerns about the impact of legislative stalemates on essential government services. As uncertainty persists, both federal workers and the traveling public face the prospect of ongoing disruption and financial strain.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

	6			1		7		9
1		9	9		7		5	
	8			5		6		1
3		7	1		5		8	
	2			8		3		5
8		6	9		2		7	
	1			2		5		3
2		4	5		3		1	
	3			9		4		7

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

3	7	1	8	2	6	9	4	5
2	9	4	4	5	1	6	7	3
4	5	6	3	7	9	8	2	1
7	3	4	5	6	8	1	9	2
6	2	5	9	1	7	4	3	8
1	8	9	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	6	3	7	8	5	2	1	4
5	4	2	1	9	3	7	8	6
8	1	7	6	4	2	3	5	9

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

SAFELY, TO THE SHORE

Missing aid sailboats bound for Cuba found safe: Mexican Navy

MEXICO

Two sailboats carrying humanitarian aid from Mexico to Cuba have been located by the Mexican Navy, with all crew members reported safe after briefly going missing during their voyage.

The vessels were part of the Nuestra America Convoy, a grassroots humanitarian initiative aimed at delivering essential supplies to Cuba amid ongoing economic challenges and shortages. The boats had departed from Isla Mujeres last Saturday and were expected to reach Havana between March 24 and 25. However, they lost contact during the journey, sparking concern among organizers and authorities.

According to a spokesperson for the convoy, the Mexican Navy successfully located both sailboats, and all crew members were confirmed safe. The vessels have since resumed their journey and are continuing toward Havana to complete their mission. The convoy is carrying food, medicine, baby formula, and other critical supplies intended to support Cuban communities facing shortages.

The Nuestra America Convoy is part of a broader effort to address the humanitarian impact of longstanding restrictions on shipments to Cuba, including limitations tied to policies of the United States. These restrictions have contributed to fuel shortages, frequent power outages, and the rationing of essential services across the island.

Confusion initially surrounded the status of the missing boats. The United States Coast Guard had earlier indicated that the vessels had been found, but later retracted the statement, saying that search efforts were still ongoing. This contradictory information led to uncertainty before the Mexican Navy ultimately confirmed the boats' safe recovery.

While the reason for the temporary disappearance remains unclear, the successful location of the vessels has reassured organizers and supporters of the mission. The convoy continues to emphasize its commitment to delivering urgently needed humanitarian aid to the Cuban population, highlighting the role of grassroots initiatives in addressing global crises.

QUICK READ

Iran war pushes feed costs, worsening China's weak hog demand

New Delhi
Rising grain and input costs due to the Iran war are lifting animal feed prices in China, putting pressure on hog producers already suffering from weak demand and pork prices at 16 year lows, a new report has said. In March, spot soymeal prices rose 7 per cent or over 200 yuan per tonne and corn by 4 per cent or around 100 yuan per tonne, according to reports. China is the world's biggest pig market and producers are dependent on two key feed ingredients namely, soymeal and corn.

Jewar International Airport to boost jobs, investment: Naidu

New Delhi
Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Saturday said the Noida International Airport at Jewar inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will emerge as a major hub for employment, investment and economic growth, benefiting not just Uttar Pradesh but the entire country. Addressing the inauguration ceremony in the presence of PM Modi, Naidu termed the launch a moment of pride for the nation and said the airport would significantly boost the region's development. This is a moment of great happiness not only for Jewar, Uttar Pradesh or Delhi-NCR, but for the entire country, he said, adding that the national capital region had gained 'another heartbeat' with the addition of the new airport.

Adani Defence delivers 1st 'Made in India' LMGs to Army

Gwalior
Adani Defence & Aerospace, a leading player in India's aerospace and defence, has delivered 2,000 indigenously manufactured 'Prahar' Light Machine Guns (LMGs) 7.62 mm to the Indian Army, marking a significant milestone in India's small arms manufacturing capability, it was announced on Saturday. Looking ahead, the Gwalior facility is also geared to manufacture close quarter battle (CQB) weapons for the Indian Armed Forces, further expanding India's indigenous small arms capability. The historic delivery of the first batch of LMGs was completed in seven months, 11 months ahead of the contracted schedule.

CBIC promotes Duty Deferment Scheme to boost trade, manufacturing

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has conducted a hybrid outreach programme to raise awareness about its Duty Deferment Scheme, aimed at facilitating faster cargo clearance and improving liquidity for eligible manufacturer importers.

NEW DELHI

According to an official statement issued by the Ministry of Finance on Saturday, the Duty Deferment Scheme enables eligible manufacturers who import goods to clear consignments without making upfront duty payments. Instead, duties can be paid on a monthly basis, significantly easing financial pressure on businesses.

The outreach programme brought together customs officials, representatives from various trade bodies, industry stakeholders, and other key participants. The session featured a detailed presentation explaining the scheme's framework, followed by an interactive segment where participants were able to raise queries and gain clarity on its implementation and benefits.

The scheme will be available to approved applicants across all customs formations from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2028. It is open to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises as well as manufacturer importers holding a valid Import Export Code. To qualify, applicants must have filed at least 25 EXIM documents in the previous financial year, with a reduced requirement of 10 documents for MSMEs.

Additionally, businesses must demonstrate compliance with Goods and Services Tax regulations, maintain financial solvency, and possess a clean compliance track record.

Applications for the scheme can be submitted online through the AEO portal, which has been operational since March 1, 2026. The application process is entirely digital, eliminating the need for any physical interaction and thereby enhancing ease of doing business.

Yogendra Garg, Member (Customs) at CBIC, highlighted that the scheme is built on a trust-based approach designed to reduce clearance times and improve efficiency. He noted that the initiative aims to bridge trust gaps between authorities and businesses while fostering a collaborative compliance environment.

Aligned with the Make in India programme, the scheme is expected to strengthen domestic manufacturing by improving liquidity, enabling better inventory planning, and enhancing global competitiveness. It also promises reduced dwell time, improved supply chain efficiency, and stronger payment discipline, making it a significant step toward modernizing India's trade ecosystem.

Adani Defence delivers first batch of Prahar LMGs to armed forces

GWALIOR

The 7.62 mm calibre Prahar Light Machine Guns have been manufactured at the company's Small Arms Complex located on the outskirts of Gwalior.

Speaking on the occasion, Ashish Rajvanshi, Chief Executive Officer of Adani Defence and Aerospace, described the delivery as a landmark achievement in the country's defence production journey.

Rajvanshi stated that the company has been contracted to deliver a total of 41,000 LMGs over a period of seven years. However, he expressed confidence that, given the current pace of production,

Adani Defence and Aerospace has delivered the first batch of 2,000 Prahar Light Machine Guns (LMGs) to the Indian Armed Forces, marking a significant milestone under the Make in India programme.

the entire order could be completed in less than three years. He further noted that the company aims to manufacture 1,000 LMGs every month, a rate he described as unprecedented in the sector.

The event was attended by senior officials, including A. Anbarasu, Director General (Acquisition) at the Ministry of Defence. Anbarasu flagged off a convoy of trucks carrying the first batch of the weapons destined for the Indian Army, symbolising the beginning of large-scale deliveries.

Highlighting the importance of technological collaboration, Rajvanshi said that acquiring base technology from global partners played a crucial role in achieving this milestone. He added that the company's journey began in 2020 with a vision aligned to the goal of Aatmanirbharta, or self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

Over the past six years, the company has transitioned from being a component manufacturer to a full-scale original equipment manufacturer of firearms. Rajvanshi credited this transformation to sustained efforts by the team and consistent policy support from the government.

The successful delivery of the Prahar LMGs is expected to strengthen the operational capabilities of the armed forces while reinforcing India's position as an emerging hub for advanced defence manufacturing.

Pilot body urges DGCA to halt flights over Mideast conflict zones

NEW DELHI

The Airline Pilots' Association of India (ALPA) has called on the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to suspend commercial flight operations over high-risk conflict zones in West Asia, citing serious safety and insurance concerns for crew and passengers.

In a formal communication to the aviation regulator, ALPA urged that the suspension remain in place until a centralised and authoritative risk assessment is completed by competent agencies. The association also demanded that binding directives be issued in alignment with international best practices and intelligence inputs for operations in or near active conflict areas.

The pilot body expressed concern over the DGCA's recent safety advisory issued on March 19, which advised airlines to conduct their own independent risk assessments. ALPA argued that such responsibility should not be delegated to commercial carriers, as they lack the necessary intelligence, surveillance, and geopolitical risk evaluation capabilities required to assess threats in active war zones. According to the association, leaving these assessments to individual airlines could lead to inconsistent safety standards across the industry.

ALPA further highlighted concerns regarding the lack of clarity on war risk insurance coverage for pilots operating in these regions. It noted that pilots have repeatedly sought confirmation about the validity of their insurance in high-risk zones, but no formal assurance or documentary evidence has been provided so far. The association suggested that this gap may stem from airlines not having adequate insurance provisions or riders in place to cover such extreme scenarios.

To underline the seriousness of the issue, ALPA cited past incidents where civilian aircraft were shot down during conflicts. These include the tragic cases of Iran Air Flight 655 shootdown, Libyan Arab Airlines Flight 114 shootdown, and Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 shootdown. The association warned that such incidents highlight the inherent risks of operating in volatile regions where military activities and misidentification can have catastrophic consequences. ALPA maintained that ensuring aviation safety in conflict zones is the responsibility of sovereign authorities and specialised agencies, not individual airlines.

Modi will lay the foundation stone for 44 urban development projects worth Rs 5,295.54 crore in Gujarat on March 31, with a major focus on infra expansion and civic improvements in Ahmedabad.

PM Modi to launch Rs 5,295 cr urban projects in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD

According to official details, the projects include 26 initiatives worth Rs 3,427.14 crore for which foundation stones will be laid, along with the inauguration of 18 completed projects valued at Rs 1,868.40 crore. These initiatives aim to strengthen urban infrastructure, enhance housing availability, and improve essential civic services across multiple cities in the state.

Ahmedabad will receive the largest share, accounting for 32 projects with a total investment of Rs 4,640.12 crore. Among the key projects to be inaugurated are the Kharicut Canal Development packages, costing Rs 811.27 crore, which are expected to improve water management and urban drainage. Several housing projects under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana will also be inaugurated, providing

housing units for economically weaker sections across various localities including Nikol-Kathwada, Chiloda-Naroda, Naroda-Muthiya, Amraiwadi, Gota, Asarwa North, and Hanspura-Naroda.

Other completed projects include the development of a modern sports complex in Vastral, the conversion of the Gota-Godhavi canal into a reinforced concrete box canal, and the establishment of water distribution infrastructure near Akash Darshan Society and Bhadaj. Additionally, a 20 million litre water storage tank at Dudheshwar Water Works has been completed to strengthen water supply systems in the city.

The foundation stone will also be laid for several major upcoming projects in Ahmedabad. These include Phase-2 of the Kharicut Canal project stretching from Ropda Lake to the Khari River, the ITMS System Project 2.0 for BRTS and AMTS to improve public transport efficiency, and the construction of a 14-kilometre road from Narol Circle to Naroda Patiya aimed at easing traffic congestion.

Further housing initiatives include the development of residential units at Kajimiyana Tekra, Bhagubhai ni Chali, Vatva, and Naroda-Hanspura, catering to both economically weaker sections and lower-income groups.

The large-scale investment reflects the government's continued focus on urban transformation, improved living standards, and sustainable infrastructure development in Gujarat, positioning cities like Ahmedabad as key drivers of economic growth and urban modernization.

RBI orders banks to impose daily caps to curb foreign speculation on rupee

NEW DELHI

In a bid to curb speculative trading to cap decline in the Indian rupee, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has ordered banks acting as authorised dealers to limit their end of day open positions in the onshore rupee to $100 million.

The domestic currency had slid to fresh lows amid widening trade gaps tied to the US-Israel and Iran conflict.

The central bank mandated that commercial banks must implement the daily cap by April 10, adding that the regulator may set different limits depending on evolving market conditions.

Analysts said that the RBI may bring in more measures if depreciation in rupee continues, adding that its support to the currency has sharply reduced its foreign-exchange reserves, limiting its ability to intervene aggressively.

The domestic currency eased below the 94 per dollar mark for the first time on Friday, dipping almost 1 per cent against the greenback, leading to a cumulative of over 4 per cent since the start of the US-Iran war.

Brent crude trading well above $100 per barrel far above the $70 baseline assumption of the RBI in October has raised India's import bill and complicated the central bank's task of balancing inflation and currency stability.

A smart recovery is likely in Indian markets as the crude overhang wanes and price earnings (P/E) premiums contract, a recent report had said.

Emkay Global Financial Services, in its latest report, projected that the Indian rupee could bounce back toward Rs 91 per US dollar and the 10 year government bond yield to ease to about 6.65 per cent from 6.83 per cent currently, with normalisation taking two to three months.

Gold gains over 5% on weekly basis amid pull back in crude prices

NEW DELHI

Gold prices gained 5.77 per cent during the week, amid sustained geopolitical tensions and pull back in crude oil prices. MCX gold April futures added 0.15 per cent while MCX silver May futures declined 0.09 per cent. Currently, gold futures stand at Rs 1,44,500, while silver futures at Rs 2,27,750 per kg.

The price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold was at Rs 1,42,942, up from Rs 1,35,141 seen on Monday market opening, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA).

Gold spot prices dipped marginally on the last day of the trading as a strong US dollar weighed on the market.

MCX gold in India showed a steady recovery from a weekly low of Rs. 1,29,595 per 10 gram, while COMEX gold ended above $4,500 per troy ounce.

Analysts said that the recent dip in gold came as the traders sold bullion to raise cash amid risk asset losses but the underlying upside momentum remains strong as the central bank continues bullion buying and geopolitical risk underpin prices.

Further, elevated US Treasury yields had also reduced the relative appeal of non yielding assets like gold during the week.

Analysts noted that a pullback in Brent crude from near $120 per barrel to about $93 per barrel earlier in the week eased inflation fears and helped gold rebound from oversold levels.

Traders remain cautious as near term swings are likely to be sharp, driven by news from the Middle East, volatile crude prices and central bank policy signals.

The commodities market enters the week in a phase of measured stabilisation following last week's sharp correction, an analyst said.

The recent decline has eased overbought conditions, with prices now attempting to rebuild momentum amid mixed global cues, including a firm US dollar and evolving geopolitical developments in the Middle East, he added.

FERMENTED DIET REVIVAL

NITI Aayog calls for revival of fermented foods for better health

NEW DELHI

NITI Aayog member Rajiv Gauba has urged a return to India's traditional fermented foods to counter the growing dependence on ultra-processed diets, warning that current food habits could pose serious risks to gut health and long-term public well-being.

Speaking at a probiotic symposium organised by the Gut Microbiota and Probiotic Science Foundation, Gauba highlighted how changing lifestyles, the influence of social media-driven food trends, and the rapid expansion of quick-commerce platforms are pushing people away from nutritionally rich, traditional diets. According to an official statement, he cautioned that such dietary shifts could have far-reaching consequences, especially as nearly 56.4 percent of India's disease burden is linked to unhealthy or imbalanced diets.

Gauba emphasised that India's rich legacy of fermented foods and traditional dietary practices provides a unique opportunity for the country to lead the global probiotic movement. By combining age-old knowledge with modern genomic and microbiome research, India can develop scientifically validated probiotic solutions that address both infectious and chronic diseases.

He underlined the significant role probiotics can play in improving nutrition, strengthening immunity, and reducing disease burdens. Stressing the broader impact of microbial health, Gauba remarked that micro-organisms could create macro consequences, urging clinicians and researchers to actively counter misleading advertisements and misinformation in the probiotics and supplements market.

Highlighting government efforts to improve healthcare accessibility and affordability, Gauba referred to flagship schemes such as Ayushman Bharat, PM-JAY, PM Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana, and Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. He noted that out-of-pocket health expenditure has significantly declined from 62.6 percent in FY15 to 39.4 percent in FY22, resulting in savings of over Rs 1.25 lakh crore for households.

MUMBAI WOMEN DRIVE FOR CHANGE IN RALLY

Over 200 women launched the 2026 WIAA Car Rally in Mumbai, combining motorsport precision with empowerment, social messages, and a celebration of female resilience

MUMBAI

The streets of Mumbai transformed into a colorful carnival as over 200 women flagged off for the 2026 WIAA Women's Car Rally to Valley. Starting at the NSCI, the event blended the thrill of motorsport with a powerful message of empowerment, with cars decorated in themes ranging from cancer awareness to gender equality.

Unlike a typical high-speed race, this 125 km journey to Khopoli follows a "Time-Speed-Distance" format. This means the winners aren't the fastest, but the most precise. Drivers must maintain a specific pace and follow a strict schedule, making it a true test

of teamwork and strategy rather than raw speed. The route takes participants out of the city and into the challenging, wind- ing roads of the hills before finishing at the Novotel Imagicaa.

Nitin Dossa, Chairman of the Western India Automobile Association, led the flag-off alongside officials from JK Tyre. For over a decade, these organizations have used this rally to promote road safety and encourage women to enter the world of motorsports. Organizers noted that the event has evolved into a massive platform for social change, echoing global safety campaigns like #CommitToLife.

The atmosphere at the starting line was electric, with families cheering on participants dressed in themed costumes. Beyond the competition, the rally stands as a 107-year-old tradition of celebrating female resilience. As the engines roared toward the valley, the message was clear: women are taking the driver's seat in both sports and society.

VERSTAPPEN slump continues after Suzuka qualifying shock

SUZUKA

The dominance of Max Verstappen at the Japanese Grand Prix has come to a grinding halt. The Red Bull star's streak of four straight pole positions at the Suzuka Circuit ended in frustration as he failed to even reach the final qualifying shootout.

Starting from a lowly 11th on the grid, Verstappen described his car as "undriveable" following a series of technical struggles. Under Formula One's sweeping new regulations for 2026, Red Bull has clearly fallen behind the pace. Mercedes currently looks like the team to beat, while Ferrari and McLaren have also surged ahead. The gap was made clear when Racing Bulls rookie Arvid Lindblad snatched the final top-ten spot, leaving the three-time champion on the sidelines.

Verstappen explained that a new aerodynamic package failed to deliver, causing the car to oversteer wildly on entry and refuse to turn mid-corner. The struggle is a stark contrast to his previous years of perfection in Japan. Currently sitting eighth in the championship with only eight points, Verstappen is a long way off leader George Russell, who holds 51 points for Mercedes.

After a difficult start to the season in Australia and a retirement in China, the pressure is mounting on Red Bull to find answers.

Antonelli claims second straight pole in Japan

JAPAN

Italian teenager Kimi Antonelli thrilled fans again by securing his second consecutive pole position at the Japanese Grand Prix. The 19-year-old clocked a time of 1:28.778 around Suzuka's 5.8 km track, beating teammate George Russell by 0.298 seconds. This gives Mercedes the front-row lockout for the third race in a row. McLaren's Oscar Piastri will start third, followed by Ferrari's Charles Leclerc in fourth. Lando Norris, hindered in practice by car issues, claimed fifth place alongside Lewis Hamilton. Antonelli, who won his first career race in China from pole, said he felt "very good in the car" and improved with every run. Russell admitted struggles with rear grip but remains hopeful for Sunday's race. Red Bull's Max Verstappen, four-time Suzuka winner, struggled in qualifying and will start 11th after calling his car "undriveable." Mercedes looks strong for another one-two finish.

NBA targets tanking with bold lottery overhaul

LOS ANGELES

The NBA is moving to protect the spirit of competition by launching a formal attack on "tanking." With team owners reviewing three groundbreaking proposals this week, the league aims to stop franchises from losing games on purpose to snag elite prospects in what experts call a historic 2026 draft class.

Commissioner Adam Silver has made his stance clear: the league must fix a system that currently rewards failure. "We are going to fix it," Silver noted, acknowledging that the line between a "legitimate rebuild" and "deliberate losing" has become dangerously thin.

One major proposal suggests expanding the draft lottery to 18 teams, including those in the Play-In Tournament. By giving the bottom ten teams equal odds for the top pick, the league hopes to destroy the incentive to finish last. A second, even more radical idea involves a "two-year win total" system. This would rank teams based on their performance over two seasons, preventing a single bad year from being rewarded with a franchise-altering player.

The third concept, the "five-by-five" double lottery, ensures the five worst teams share identical odds, protecting them from falling too far in the draft while removing the "race to the bottom."

Sahith Theegala shines at Houston golf open

HOUSTON

Indian-American golfer Sahith Theegala is staying right in the mix at the Houston Open. After another impressive performance, Theegala shot a second straight 3-under 67, leaving him tied for 11th place as the tournament moves into the weekend.

Theegala showed great steady nerves throughout his round. He picked up early momentum with back-to-back birdies on the fifth and sixth holes. Although he stumbled slightly with a bogey on the eighth, he bounced back beautifully on the return stretch, sinking two more birdies to finish strong. Joining him in the spotlight is fellow Indian-origin player Sudarshan Yellamaraju, who climbed to 20th place after a brilliant, error-free round of 66.

At the top of the leaderboard, the story of the day belongs to Gary Woodland. The former U.S. Open champion surged into a three-shot lead with a stunning 7-under par. Woodland's performance is being hailed as a "miracle comeback" by fans, as he only recently returned to the tour following major brain surgery in late 2023. He now sits at 12-under par, proving he is back to his world-class best.

Close behind the leader are Denmark's Nicolai Højgaard and Jackson Suber, who are both tied for second. Højgaard actually fired the best round of the week so far—a blistering 62. With the leaderboard so tight and the stars finding their rhythm, the final two days in Texas promise plenty of drama and high-speed action on the greens.

Naseem Shah handed show-cause notice over "queen" jibe

LAHORE

Pakistan's star pacer Naseem Shah is in hot water with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) after a controversial social media post aimed at Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. The board officially issued a show-cause notice to the 23-year-old, alleging a serious breach of his central contract and the organization's media policy.

The sparks flew during the opening night of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2026 at Gaddafi Stadium. While the tournament is being held behind closed doors due to a regional fuel crisis and the West Asia conflict, Maryam Nawaz was seen arriving with a massive security convoy and receiving high-level protocol.

Reacting to a video of PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi greeting the Chief Minister, a post from Naseem's official X account asked:

"Why is she treated like the Queen at Lord's?"

The post was deleted within five minutes, followed by a claim that Naseem's account had been hacked. However, the PCB remains unconvinced by the explanation. The board's notice cites Clause 2.23 of the Code of Conduct, which strictly prohibits players from making public criticisms or inappropriate comments regarding board officials, policies, or government dignitaries.

Despite the ongoing disciplinary proceedings, Naseem is currently in the lineup for the Rawalpindi Pindiz and is expected to play in their fixture tonight against Peshawar Zalmi while the board awaits his formal response.

A Tense Backdrop for PSL 2026

The controversy adds another layer of drama to a PSL season already struggling with external pressures:

- Fuel Crisis: Matches are being played without spectators to conserve resources amidst ongoing regional tensions.
- Security Threats: Militant group Jamaat-ul-Ahrar recently warned foreign players to withdraw, though stars like David Warner and Marnus Labuschagne have continued to play under "presidential-level" security.
- Venue Restrictions: The tournament has been restricted to just Lahore and Karachi, with the stadium in Peshawar (recently renamed Imran Khan Stadium) labeled a "Do Not Travel" zone by international governments.

Indian runners smash records to reach worlds

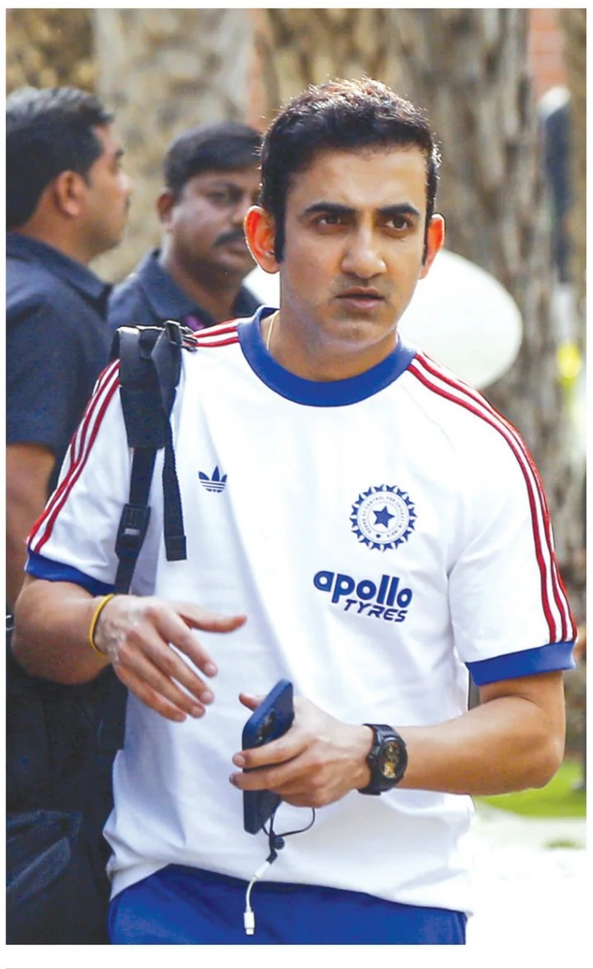
CHANDIGARH

India's fastest athletes turned the track into a theater of dreams, shattering national records to secure their spots at the upcoming World Athletics Relays. During a high-stakes competition in Chandigarh, the national squads delivered a masterclass in speed and teamwork, proving they are ready to take on the world this May in Botswana.

The highlight of the day came during the mixed 4x100m relay. The talented quartet of Lalu Prasad, Unnathi, Harita, and Jayaram displayed flawless baton exchanges and explosive sprinting. They clocked a stunning 42.30 seconds, not only winning the gold medal but also setting a brand-new national record. Their performance brought the cheering crowd to its feet as they surpassed the previous mark of 43.44 seconds.

It was a golden day across multiple events. In the men's 4x400m, the India B team displayed incredible grit to edge out their teammates in India A. Both squads finished with times fast enough to qualify for the global stage. Meanwhile, the senior mixed 4x400m team also tasted victory, beating a tough challenge from Sri Lanka.

Chief coach Radhakrishnan Nair had expressed quiet confidence before the race, and his athletes did not disappoint. This surge in relay success shows the deep talent pool growing in India, from senior stars to rising youth players from Tamil Nadu and Chandigarh. With the qualification deadline fast approaching, these runners have sent a loud message: India is no longer just participating; they are coming to compete with the very best.



Court bans fake AI content of Gambhir

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has taken a stand against digital impersonation, ordering an immediate takedown of artificial intelligence (AI) content misusing the identity of Indian cricket head coach Gautam Gambhir. In a significant ruling for personality rights, the court directed major tech giants and e-commerce platforms to scrub their sites of unauthorized deepfakes and fabricated materials within 36 hours.

Justice Jyoti Singh issued the interim order after hearing a plea from the former cricketer's legal team, who highlighted a "coordinated campaign" of digital deceit. Lawyers Jai Anant Dehadrai and Srutee Priyadarshini presented evidence of AI-generated videos, including a fake resignation announcement that garnered nearly three million views. The court heard how voice-cloning and face-swapping technologies were being "weaponized" to put false words in Gambhir's mouth and promote unauthorized merchandise.

The mandate extends to major players including Meta (Instagram/Facebook), Google (YouTube), Amazon, and Flipkart. These platforms must not only remove the offending links but also disclose the identities and IP logs of the anonymous creators behind them. Justice Singh noted that Gambhir, as a decorated public figure and national coach, possesses immense goodwill that must be protected from reputational harm and commercial exploitation.

This landmark decision follows similar protections granted to other Indian icons like Sunil Gavaskar and Amitabh Bachchan. It serves as a stern warning to digital bad actors that the legal system is evolving to meet the challenges of the AI era, ensuring that a person's name, voice, and face remain their own.

MADRID

FC Barcelona's dreams of a historic double have hit a major roadblock following a serious injury to star winger Raphinha. The Brazilian forward suffered a right hamstring tear while on international duty during a friendly against France, leaving the Catalan giants to navigate a brutal April schedule without their most productive attacking weapon.

The timing could not be worse for manager Hansi Flick. Barcelona currently sits atop La Liga with 73 points after 29 matches, holding a narrow four-point lead over arch-rivals Real Madrid. Raphinha has been the heartbeat of this campaign, delivering an impressive 14 goals and six assists in just 27 appearances. This marks his second hamstring setback of the season, a recurring issue that previously sidelined him for two months.

The club now enters a "make or break" stretch. On April 4, they travel to face a dangerous Atletico Madrid side that recently thrashed them 4-0 in cup play. Just four days later, they host Diego Simeone's men again for the first leg of the Champions League quarterfinals. With a local derby against Espanyol and a European return leg following immediately after, the loss of Raphinha's pace and clinical finishing is a massive psychological and tactical blow.

While goalkeeper Joan Garcia has been in inspired form to keep the title race alive, the pressure now shifts to the rest of the squad to fill the void. Barcelona must find a way to maintain their lead over a surging Real Madrid or risk seeing a dominant season crumble in the final weeks.

Raphinha injury blow to Barcelona title hopes

HOCKEY STAR NAVNEET CREDITS TEAM FOR WIN

Navneet Kaur wins Player of the Year, credits teammates after stellar performances and key goals in India's recent successes

NEW DELHI

Indian hockey sensation Navneet Kaur has officially been crowned the Player of the Year, but she refuses to take all the credit. After receiving the prestigious Balbir Singh Sr. Award at the Hockey India 8th Annual Awards, the star forward turned the spotlight back onto her teammates.

Navneet's humble reaction followed a spectacular year on the turf. She played a massive role in India's recent string of successes, including a hard-fought silver medal at the World Cup Qualifiers. Not only did she net four goals during that tournament, but she also walked away with the Player of the Tournament trophy. Her scoring streak continued at the Women's Asia Cup 2025, where she added six more goals to help India secure yet another silver medal.

Beyond the trophies, Navneet reached a personal milestone by completing 200 international matches. This achievement cements her place as a legendary pillar of India's attacking lineup. Despite the individual glory, Navneet insists that her constant support system on the field is what truly makes her shine. She believes the team's belief in her was the secret ingredient to her consistent performances throughout the season.

Looking forward, Navneet is already focusing on the next big challenges, including the Nations Cup and the Asian Games. She says there is always room to get better and is determined to sharpen her skills even further. For this champion, the award is not a finish line, but a motivation to lead India to even greater internation- al victories.

Hockey star Harmanpreet meets cricket icon Kohli

NEW DELHI

Indian men's hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh recently shared details of a heart-warming encounter with cricket legend Virat Kohli, describing the meeting as both humble and deeply inspiring. The two sporting icons reportedly bonded over a friendly conversation in Punjabi, adding a personal touch to their memorable interaction. Harmanpreet noted that connecting with elite athletes from different fields provides a unique spark of motivation. This meeting coincided with a massive career milestone for the hockey star, as he was recently honored at the Hockey India 8th Annual Awards for completing 250 international matches. For Harmanpreet, reaching this mark is a proud achievement that reflects years of dedication to the national jersey.

However, the captain's eyes are firmly fixed on the horizon. India is currently gearing up for the high-stakes FIH World Cup 2026. The team finds itself in a challenging group alongside rivals Pakistan, England, and Wales. Before the main event, a highly anticipated clash against Pakistan in the FIH Pro League in England will serve as a vital fitness and strategy test.

With only ten weeks left until the World Cup begins, Harmanpreet emphasized that the squad is working tirelessly to fix past mistakes. The focus remains on building team confi-

dence and sharpening their tactical edge. As the leader of the pack, Harmanpreet is hopeful that this blend of inspiration and hard work will lead to a dominant performance on the world stage. The nation now waits to see if this motivation translates into gold.

Andhra Pradesh girls win deaf cricket title

GURUGRAM

In a thrilling display of skill and determination, the Andhra Pradesh Women's Team has been crowned the champions of the 7th IDCA Women's T-10 National Cricket Championship for the Deaf. The final, held on Friday, saw a nail-biting finish as they narrowly defeated Delhi by just five runs.

Batting first, Andhra Pradesh put up a solid score of 73 runs in their allotted ten overs. Delhi fought hard until the very last ball, but they fell just short, finishing their innings at 68. The victory was a testament to the incredible talent within the deaf cricketing community, proving that passion for the game knows no barriers.

The star of the show was undoubtedly D. Kanthamma from Andhra Pradesh. Her dominant performance earned her a hat-trick of honors, including Woman of the Match in the final, Best Batswoman of the Series, and the prestigious Player of the Series award. On the bowling side, Uttar Pradesh's Priya Dixit was recognized as the tournament's best bowler.

Former Indian cricketer Gursharan Singh joined several sports officials to present the trophy during a moving closing ceremony. IDCA President Sumit Jain praised the athletes for their "exceptional talent" and thanked supporters like Cyrus Poonawalla for making the event a grand success. Hosted by the Haryana Deaf Cricket Association, this championship has set a new benchmark for inclusive sports in India, inspiring more women to pursue cricket as a professional career.

Ashwin picks new look CSK without Dhoni

NEW DELHI

Cricket fans were shocked as Chennai Super Kings confirmed that legend MS Dhoni will miss the first two weeks of IPL 2026. Dhoni is currently sidelined with a calf strain, leaving a massive hole in the team's lineup just as the new season kicks off.

In response, former CSK star Ravichandran Ashwin has shared his "dream XI" to help the team bounce back from their disappointing last-place finish in 2025. With Dhoni out, Ashwin has picked Sanju Samson to take over the wicketkeeping gloves and open the batting alongside Captain Ruturaj Gaikwad. This bold move aims to give the five-time champions a flying start at the top of the order.

Ashwin's middle order is packed with young power, featuring Urvil Patel and "Baby AB" Dewald Brevis, followed by the hard-hitting Shivam Dube.

For the tricky number six spot, Ashwin is torn between the experienced Sarfaraz Khan and rising star Ayush Mhatre. He also highlighted Kartik Sharma as a key player for the lower order.

To fix the bowling, Ashwin has turned to international talent, selecting spinners Akeal Hosein and Noor Ahmad to lead the slow-bowling attack. The pace department will rely on the speed of Matt Henry and Khaleel Ahmed.

Bangladesh ends ban on IPL cricket broadcasts

DHAKA

In a major win for cricket fans, Bangladesh has officially cleared the way for the Indian Premier League to return to television screens. Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapan confirmed that the government has dropped previous restrictions, choosing to separate sports from regional politics.

The move marks a significant policy shift from the previous interim administration. That government had blocked IPL broadcasts following a heated row involving the BCCI and Bangladeshi pacer Mustafizur Rahman. However, Minister Swapan emphasized that the new leadership views the tournament through a "commercial lens" rather than a political one. He stated that any local or international network, including Star Sports, is now free to apply for broadcasting rights without fear of being blocked.

"We will not bar anyone," Swapan noted, adding that the government would consider all applications positively. This open-door policy has been welcomed by the Cable Operators Association of Bangladesh. Spokesperson Rezaul Karim Lablu clarified that since the old directives are no longer valid, operators will not interfere with IPL feeds unless specifically told otherwise by the current authorities.

The lifting of the ban ensures that millions of fans in Bangladesh can once again follow their favorite stars and teams in real-time.

International tennis returns to Tumakuru after decades

TUMAKURU

After a twenty-year wait, international tennis is finally returning to the heart of Karnataka. Home Minister G. Parameshwara officially sparked the excitement by unveiling the logo for the upcoming ITF Women's World Tennis Tour W35 Tournament, scheduled to hit the courts this May.

The prestigious event will run from May 4 to May 10 at the Tumkur District Tennis Stadium, located within the scenic Tumkur University campus. As part of the global International Tennis Federation circuit, the tournament offers a significant prize pool of USD 30,000. More importantly, it provides athletes with vital ranking points needed to climb the professional ladder toward the elite WTA Tour.

Minister Parameshwara emphasized that bringing world-class sports to cities beyond Bengaluru is a game-changer. He noted that hosting the event in Tumkur will inspire local youth, particularly young girls, to pick up a racket and dream big. By moving the spotlight away from major hubs, the region hopes to foster a fresh sports culture and prove it can handle global pressure.

The week-long competition will feature intense singles, doubles, and qualifying matches, drawing talented players from across the globe to the city. Local officials, including Subha Kalyan, are working around the clock to ensure the facilities are world-class. With preparations in full swing, Tumakuru is ready to transform into a tennis hotspot, showcasing its growing infrastructure to a global audience while reviving a long-lost sporting legacy for its residents.

Bamboo sticks to gold for tribal star

RAIPUR

Nineteen-year-old Babulal Hembrom is proving that true champions are built through grit, not expensive gear. The young weightlifter from Jharkhand has become the talk of the Khelo India Tribal Games 2026, clinching a silver medal in the 60kg category through sheer determination.

Coming from the small village of Keribanda, Babulal's journey started with nothing but a dream. In 2018, his family could not afford professional weights or gym memberships. Refusing to quit, Babulal built his own strength by lifting bamboo sticks and heavy iron rods found at local construction sites. His coach, Gurvinder Singh, saw his potential early on, and Babulal rewarded that faith by traveling sixty kilometers every single day just to reach a proper training center.

The sacrifice has transformed his life and his family's future. With his mother working as a cook and his father taking odd jobs, Babulal views every lift as a way to pull his loved ones out of poverty. He is no stranger to success, having already secured gold at the 2024 Youth Games and medals on the international stage.

Now training at the national camp in Patiala, Babulal is moving into the senior ranks with his sights set on the Commonwealth and Asian Games. His story serves as a powerful reminder that while talent is born, greatness is forged in the toughest conditions. From construction sites to the podium, Babulal Hembrom is lifting the hopes of an entire nation.

Ben Stokes' return delayed after "horrific" net injury

NEW DELHI

England Test captain Ben Stokes has confirmed a further delay to his competitive return following a serious facial injury. Originally aiming for an April comeback in the County Championship, the 34-year-old all-rounder is now sidelined until at least May as he recovers from surgery to repair a fractured cheekbone.

The injury occurred in early February during a freak accident while Stokes was coaching Durham's academy players. A ball struck him with such force that Durham coach Ryan Campbell described the incident as potentially "horrific," noting that it was only centimeters away from being a life-altering eye injury. Stokes underwent successful surgery shortly after and has been sharing his recovery progress—and "battle scars"—on social media with his trademark grit and humor.

This latest setback follows a grueling winter where Stokes struggled with an adductor injury during a disappointing 4-1 Ashes defeat in Australia. Having opted out of the ongoing T20 World Cup to focus on his fitness, Stokes is now "pencilled in" for Durham's matches against Worcestershire (May 8) and Kent (May 15).

These county fixtures will be his only chance to find his rhythm before a massive summer of Test cricket. England is scheduled to host two major three-match series, starting with a clash against New Zealand on Stokes' 35th birthday.

Lionel Scaloni leaves Messi world cup call

BUENOS AIRES

With the 2026 FIFA World Cup just over two months away, the footballing world is holding its breath over one question: will Lionel Messi be there? Argentina manager Lionel Scaloni confirmed yesterday that the final decision rests entirely with the legendary superstar, citing Messi's "attitude and physical condition" as the deciding factors.

Messi recently appeared as a substitute in a 2-1 friendly win over Mauritania. While he didn't find the back of the net, his presence alone electrified the home crowd. As Argentina prepares to defend their global crown this June, Scaloni remains hopeful but respectful of his captain's privacy. "He has earned the right to make his decision in peace," Scaloni told reporters, adding that he will do everything possible to ensure the veteran of 196 caps stays with the squad.

The defending champions are set to headline Group J, kicking off their campaign against Algeria in Kansas City on June 16, followed by matches against Austria and Jordan. Before the big stage, Argentina faces Zambia on April 1. Many fear this could be Messi's final appearance on home soil if he chooses to step away before the tournament begins.

With 115 international goals to his name, Messi remains the heart of the team. Whether he seeks one last golden chapter in a career already defined by greatness remains to be seen. For now, the manager and the nation are simply waiting for a sign from their "Number 10.

Wolvaardt eyes redemption in critical ODI series

CHRISTCHURCH

South Africa's women's cricket captain Laura Wolvaardt is calling for a "braver" performance as her team shifts focus to the One Day International series against New Zealand. After a tough 1-4 loss in the recent T20 matches, the Proteas are determined to turn their luck around starting this Sunday at Hagley Oval.

The upcoming three-match series is about more than just pride; it carries massive weight for the 2029 ODI World Cup qualification. Wolvaardt admitted the team struggled to find their rhythm in the shorter format but remains confident in their 50-over game. South Africa has been remarkably consistent in ODIs lately, having reached the final of the 2025 World Cup where they narrowly lost to India.

"The points are super important," Wolvaardt noted during a pre-match meeting. She emphasized that the team wants to secure their spot early in the championship cycle to avoid a desperate scramble later. The squad welcomes back experienced seamers Ayabonga Khaka and Masabata Klaas, providing a much-needed boost to the bowling attack.

Moda Kavida Vataavarana
Release Date Set for June 26

Director Simple Suni has officially announced that his upcoming film Moda Kavida Vataavarana will release in theatres on June 26, 2026.

The filmmaker, known for handling story, screenplay, dialogues, and lyrics in his projects, shared the update through social media along with a newly designed poster that quickly gained attention online.

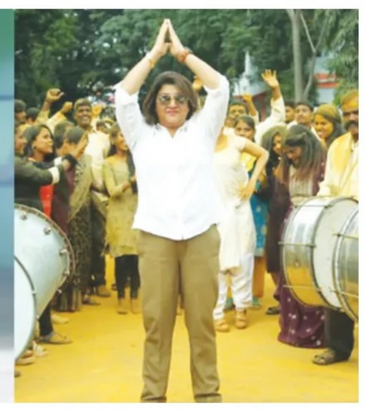
Suni has earned a strong name in the Kannada film industry with popular romantic and unique movies such as Simple Agi Ondh Love Story, Chamak, Ondu Sarala Premakathe, and Gatha Vaibhava. His new film, with its interesting title, hints at a fresh love story blended with a science-fiction backdrop, creating curiosity among movie lovers.

The director has developed this project for his protégé Sheelam, who will be seen as a full-fledged lead actor for the first time.

Sheelam, who earlier appeared in smaller roles, is paired with actresses Sathvika and Moksha Kushal. Moksha Kushal described the film as a dream project and requested audiences to support the team. The film is produced under the Ram Movies banner and features cinematography by Santosh Rai Pathaje, music composed by Judah Sandy, and editing by Aditya Kashyap. One of its songs, Nannedeya Haadondanu, sung by Sanjith Hegde, has already become popular. With the poster going viral and positive reactions pouring in, expectations are high.

The team is hopeful that the film will connect well with audiences upon its theatrical release.

BHOOMI SHETTY, MALASHREE
Lead Kendada Seragu Film Release



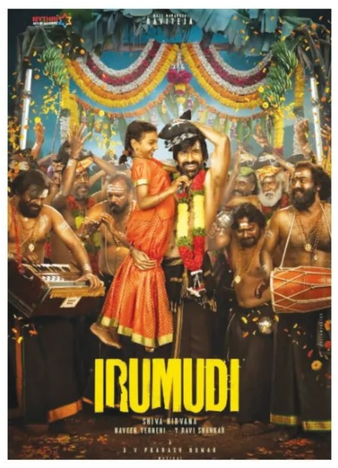
Actors Bhoomi Shetty and Malashree are set to appear in key roles in the upcoming Kannada film Kendada Seragu, which focuses on a woman's fight for self-respect. The film team recently shared glimpses and behind-the-scenes visuals, creating curiosity among audiences.

Directed by Rocky Somli, the film blends a crime investigation story with a strong social message. This project also marks Rocky Somli's debut as a director. The story is based on a novel written by him and revolves around wrestling, adding a unique angle to the narrative.

Bhoomi Shetty, who became popular through television and reality shows, plays the role of a wrestler. The team has released visuals showing her training and preparation, highlighting her dedication to the character. Meanwhile, Malashree, widely known as Sandalwood's Action Queen, returns to the screen in a powerful police officer role after a long gap.

The story also addresses serious issues faced by women in society, including betrayal in the name of love. It follows a young woman who is deceived by someone she trusts and pushed into dangerous and unethical situations. At a crucial point, Malashree's character steps in to investigate the case, expose a criminal network, and bring out the truth. The film features a large supporting cast, including Shobhita, Prathima Thakur, Mohan Kumar, Vardhan, Yash Shetty, Sindhu Lokanath, and Harish Arasu.

Produced by K. Kotresh Gowda under Sri Muthu Talkies and SK Productions, the film has cinematography by Vipin V Raj, music by Veeresh Kambli, and editing by Srikanth. The movie is scheduled to release in theatres on April 17, 2026.



RAVI TEJA'S IRUMUDI
Completes Half Shoot With Action

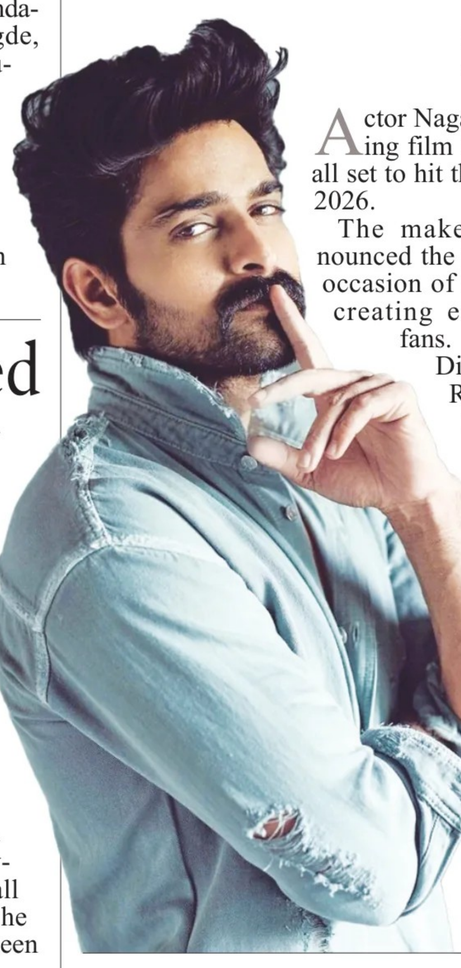
Actor Ravi Teja's upcoming film Irumudi, directed by Shiva Nirvana, has completed more than 50 percent of its shoot, marking an important milestone in production. The makers are currently filming key action sequences in Hyderabad and have expressed satisfaction with the film's progress so far.

The action scenes are being shot under the supervision of stunt choreographers Anl Arasu and Real Satish. According to the team, these sequences are designed to look fresh and offer a new experience to audiences, combining intensity with visual appeal.

Irumudi is described as a family drama that blends action with strong emotional elements. Director Shiva Nirvana, known for films like Ninnu Kori and Majili, is focusing on themes of family, love, and bonding in this project. While the title is inspired by Ayyappa devotion, the story mainly revolves around human relationships and emotions.

In the film, Ravi Teja will be seen in a different role compared to his previous performances. Actress Priya Bhavani Shankar plays his wife, while child actor Baby Nakshathra appears as their daughter. The film also features a strong supporting cast including Sai Kumar, Ajay Ghosh, Ramesh Indira, Swasika, Meesala Lakshman, Rajkumar Kasireddy, Ramana Bhargav, Kishore Kancherapalem, Karthik Adusumalli, and Mahesh.

NAGA SHAURYA's Bad Boy Karthik
Set For April Release



Actor Naga Shaurya's upcoming film Bad Boy Karthik is all set to hit theatres on April 17, 2026.

The makers officially announced the release date on the occasion of Sri Rama Navami, creating excitement among fans.

Directed by debutant Raam Desina, the film is described as a mass action entertainer packed with high-energy moments and commercial elements. The announcement was made through social media with a message inviting audiences to get ready for victory, madness and high-voltage entertainment.

Naga Shaurya plays the lead role, while Vidhi appears as the female lead. Actress Sridevi Vijaykumar plays a key role as his sister, and the emotional brother-sister relationship is said to be an important part of the story.

The film also features a strong supporting cast including Samuthirakani, Sr Naresh, Sai Kumar, Vennela Kishore, and Mime Gopi in significant roles.

On the technical side, cinematography is handled by Rasool Ellore, while music is composed by Harris Jayaraj, marking his return to Telugu cinema.

Editing is done by Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao, and art direction is by Ramanjaneyulu.

The film's choreography is managed by Raju Sundaram, Shobi Master, Vijay Polanki, and Sirish, with lyrics written by Chandra Bose, Ramajogayya Sastry, Kasarla Shyam, and Krishnakanth. With expectations rising, the film is expected to be a notable release this April.

KATHANAR
Trailer Date Out; Jayasurya Film Builds Massive Buzz

Actor Jayasurya is gearing up for his next big project, Kathanar: The Wild Sorcerer, with the makers announcing that the teaser trailer will be released on March 31.

The film, directed by Rojin Thomas, is already creating strong buzz among fans and the industry. Coming after the success of Aadu 3, the new film is being planned as a large-scale visual spectacle.

It is written by R. Ramanand along with the director and is currently in the post-production stage.

The makers have earlier released a first look and glimpse video, which have raised expectations for the film.

'AMALAAMRUTHA' based on Ragavendra Swamy

The devotional film 'Amalaamrutha' has been produced by Mysore-based Gururajarao.M.S. under Siri Productions along with Dirction. A special screening was arranged for the Yatis of Rayara Matas and government officers just the other day. Everyone who watched and praised the film.

K.S.Govindaramarao has played the lead roles as Bahlikaraja, Vyasaraja and Raghavendra Swami. The rest are played by Veerendra Acharya, Subbarao, Master Suchendra, Chaitra Bharadwaj, Yashas, Suman, Deepak, Srikanth. Vidushi Ratnaprasad has composed the music for the eight lyrics of Haridas. The cinematography is by Pradeep, and the editing is by Swami.

As the director says, I had previously prepared a documentary film on Purandaradasa and Sri Padaraja. I have directed and invested from this experience. Amala and Amrita are both composed of the title. The fruit of the Nava Bhakuti Jnanayaghna is called Amala, and the essence is called Amruta. Nava Bhakuti means the order given by the Lord in Vaishnava philosophy. Sri Raghavendra Swamigi learned 64 sciences with devotion. He appeared in five incarnations in the East. Karmajadevata, devotee Prahlada, Bahlikaraja, Vyasaraja and finally Gurusarvabowma. The details of how all these arose are shown. The same as in Rayaru is not seen in anyone else.

The fruit of the Swami's penance has given the fruit of merit to all races. Gururajarao.M.S. informed that there will be a message that only when you bow down to Brindavan with devotion, it will be good.

The shooting has been done in the places where the king resided such as Chennapatna, Abburpet, Srirangam, Kumbakonam, Sri Mushnam, Mannargudi, Chintamani. The film is likely to be released in May.

Varun Tej's Bhari First Look And Motion Poster Released

The makers of Bhari, starring Varun Tej Konidela, unveiled the film's first look and a special motion poster on Saturday, exciting fans and cinema lovers.

The announcement was made by Pink Elephant Pictures through its official social media platforms.

Sharing the poster, the team described the film as a high-energy drama, hinting at an intense and engaging storyline.

The motion poster clearly suggests that the film is a rural sports drama centered around volleyball, setting the stage for a unique narrative rooted in village life and competitive spirit.

The film is directed by Yadhu Vamsee, known for his earlier entertainer Committee Kurrollu, and is co-directed by Ravi Sankar D.

It is produced by Niharika Konidela under the Pink Elephant Pictures banner, with Ramesh Manyam serving as executive producer.

Vijay's JANA NAYAGAN
Release Likely Delayed To Mid 2026

Actor Vijay's much-awaited film Jana Nayagan is likely to face further delays, with reports suggesting a new release window in June or July 2026. The film, directed by H. Vinoth, was initially scheduled to hit theatres on January 9, 2026, but could not meet the date due to pending certification from the Central Board of Film Certification. The delay caused by censor issues has affected the film's overall release plan. Although the certification process is expected to be completed soon, the makers are waiting for official approval before confirming a new date. In addition, the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly elections have also influenced scheduling decisions, forcing the team to reconsider earlier plans of a May release.

Industry reports indicate that Jana Nayagan may now release after Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups, starring Yash, which is set to arrive on June 4, 2026. Both films are backed by KVN Productions, which has a packed release lineup. Another project, KD: The Devil starring Dhruva Sarja, is scheduled for April 30, 2026.

There are also concerns regarding the film's OTT deal, with reports suggesting that the streaming partner may have withdrawn due to repeated delays. This has added pressure on the producers, as financial and distribution plans may need revision. Jana Nayagan, believed to be Vijay's final film, has generated high expectations. The story follows a former police officer who raises a young girl to become strong and independent. The film features a cast including Pooja Hegde, Bobby Deol, Mamitha Baiju, Gautham Vasudev Menon, and Prakash Raj.

Suhas' HEY BALWANTH Set For OTT Release Soon

Actor Suhas's film Hey Balwanth is all set for its digital premiere on ZEE5 on March 31, following its successful theatrical run. Directed by debutant Gopi Atchara, the film originally released in theatres on February 20 and received positive responses from audiences. The movie features Shivani Nagaram as the female lead, while veteran actor Naresh plays a crucial role.

The story revolves around Krishna, played by Suhas, who grows up admiring his father Rao Balwanth and dreams of continuing his legacy. However, Krishna's life changes when he discovers that his father's business is actually a lodge that provides shelter to sex workers. Shocked and confused, he distances himself from his father. The narrative then follows his emotional journey as he struggles to decide whether to shut down the lodge or understand the lives connected to it. The film is praised for blending humour with emotional storytelling.

The first half presents light-hearted moments, especially between Suhas and Shivani Nagaram, while the second half shifts into a deeper father-son drama. It explores the reasons behind Rao Balwanth's choices and the complexities of his decisions.

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